FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 078 *20 April 1979*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT/SALT/MBFR

Editorial Hails 'Sober' SALT Backing From Brown, Brzezinski [ZA RUBEZHOM No 16] AA 1
IZVESTIYA Examines Diverse U.S. Views on Disarmament, Detente [Petrov] AA 2
PRAVDA Hits Anti-SALT Stance of 'Peace Through Strength' Group [Kurdyumov in PRAVDA 17 Apr] AA 5

WORLD AND REGIONAL ISSUES

Results of Tokyo Round of GATT Talks in Geneva Assessed CC 1

UNITED STATES & CANADA

U.S. Congressional Delegation Continues USSR Visit A 1
Arrival in Moscow A 1
Attends Supreme Soviet Session A 1
U.S. 'Global Shield' Exercise Endangers Security [Anichkin in PRAVDA 15 Apr] A 2
U.S. Political Motives Hinder Improved USSR-American Trade A 3
U.S. Coverup of Korea Bribery Scandal Continues A 3
Soviet Astronomer Ambartsumyan Hails U.S. Voyager Mission [IZVESTIYA 6 Apr] A 4

CHINA

Glebov on PRC Decision To Terminate Sino-Soviet Treaty B 1
PRC Actions Aim To Wreck 'Difficult' Talks With Hanoi [Kolchanov] B 2
Beijing Distorts Nature of Soviet Aid to Afghanistan [Kulik in PRAVDA 18 Apr] B 2

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan Having Second Thoughts on PRC Economic Relations [Latyshev in PRAVDA 13 Apr] C 1

SOUTH ASIA

PRC Overtures to Pakistan Cause Concern in South Asia [Midtsev in IZVESTIYA 15 Apr] D 1
Brezhnev, Kosygin Exchange Telegrams With Pakistan's Haq [PRAVDA 18 Apr] D 2
Afghanistan Striving To Continue Revolutionary Progress D 2
Taraki Speaks on Successes D 2
Kabul Rallies D 3
Development of Socialist Ethic D 4

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Phan Hien Comments on SRV-PRC Talks, SRV Proposals E 1
NHAN DAN Editorial on Talks E 1
Kampuchea's Heng Samrin Comments on Foreign Policy E 2
Kampuchean Army Liquidating Remnant Pol Pot Bands E 2
Commentary Stresses USSR Solidarity With Lao People E 3

EASTERN EUROPE

Gierek Speaks at PZPR Central Committee Plenum F 1
[PRAVDA 13 Apr]
Polish Foreign Minister on USSR Relations, Warsaw Pact F 1
Lesechko Receives Polish Foreign Trade Minister F 2
[PRAVDA 13 Apr]
Husak Stresses Importance of Czechoslovak-USSR Ties F 2
Husak Receives Visiting PDRY Prime Minister F 2
Prime Minister Ends Visit F 2
Gorbachev Delegation Received by Slovakia's Lenart F 3
[PRAVDA 13 Apr]
Arkhipov Receives SFRY Economic Delegation; Talks End F 3
Soviet Naval Squadron Ends Visit to Yugoslav Port F 3
Tito Addresses LCY Central Committee Festive Session F 3

WESTERN EUROPE

Reportage on Good State of Soviet-French Relations G 1
Giscard Comments on Relations G 1
Soviet-French World Influence [NOVOYE VREMYA] G 1
Soviet-French Industrial Cooperation G 2
Joint Space Research G 2
PCF's Marchais Advocates Indian Ocean Peace Zone G 3
[PRAVDA 11 Apr]
Mondale in Norway Discusses NATO, Oil for Israel G 3
U.S. Ambassador Blatantly Interfering in Italian Affairs G 1
[Popov in IZVESTIYA 17 Apr]
British Skeptical Over Labor, Tory Election Manifestos G 4
[Petrusenko in IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]
NATO Exploiting Cyprus Situation To Conduct Spy Activities G 5

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Referendum on Treaty in Egypt Characterized as 'Farce' H 1
Analyst Views Effects on Lebanon of Israeli-Egyptian Treaty H 1
[Kulik]
TASS Denounces Proclamation of South Lebanon 'Mini-State' H 2
Israeli Expansionist Plot [Zlatorunskiy] H 3
Iranian Minister on Soviet Media's Objective Reporting H 4
[PRAVDA 13 Apr]
Iran's Shari'at-Madari on Relations With USSR H 4
Khomeyni on External Interference, Internal Arbitrariness H 4
PRAVDA Reports Brezhnev, Kosygin Messages to Syrian Leaders H 5
[17 Apr]
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Scores U.S. Arms Shipment to North Yemen H 6
[Vinogradov 18 Apr]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

South Africa's Botha Launches 'Sensational' Attack on U.S. [Kukushkin in IZVESTIYA 14 Apr] J 1
Rhodesia's Smith Uses Pressure To Attract Voters J 2
Sierra Leone Prospering in Economic, Social Fields J 2
Congolese, Soviet Friendship Groups Sign Protocol J 2

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Further Reportage on 18-19 April Supreme Soviet Session R 1
New Soviet Government Formed R 1
Council of Ministers Confirmed R 1
Kosygin Address R 1
Supreme Soviet First Session Ends R 4
PRAVDA Text of Information Report on CPSU CC Plenum [18 Apr] R 5
TASS General Director Khatuntsev Dies 19 April R 5
Jews in USSR Play Full Role in Soviet Life R 5
Kuznetsov Presents Awards to Party Members R 6
Muslim Mufti Interviewed on Role of Islam in USSR [cross-reference] R 6

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Radio Reports Agricultural Progress for 18-19 April T 1
Spring Sowing Makes Substantial Progress in Republics T 1
Cold Spell for Ukraine T 2
Kazakhstan's Sowing Campaign T 2
Capricious Spring Hampers Fieldwork in Some Regions T 2

EDITORIAL HAILS 'SOBER' SALT BACKING FROM BROWN, BRZEZINSKI

LD201013 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 16 Signed to Press 12 Apr 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Factor of the Greatest Importance"]

[Excerpt] The socialist community's joint policy is exerting an indisputably growing and beneficial influence on the course of world development. The land of the soviets directs its main efforts toward achieving the vitally important task of curbing the arms race and averting the threat of world nuclear war. Our country is guided by the instruction of the great Lenin who demanded: As many decisions and measures as possible "which really lead to peace, to say nothing of the total elimininations of the danger of war."

Dictated by Life

The signing of the second Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments can and must be a constructive, weighty contribution to resolving this urgent task. The treaty's importance extends far beyond the confines of the relations between the USSR and United States alone. And that is why the talks between the two major states are being followed throughout the world with such intense attention. In its assessments of the treaty the Soviet side proceeds from the same principles by which it is guided in its approach to Soviet-American relations as a whole. This agreement must help to strengthen the security of the two peoples and of all mankind. It must take into account both countries' interests and must not harm these interests. Our country followed these criteria in initiating the era of detente in relations with the United States. And it is not the Soviet Union's fault that the SALT-II treaty agreed in principle in November 1974 at Vladivostok has still not been signed.

In analyzing the process of work on the second phase of the SALT treaty, many commentators are noting the consistency and principled nature of the position of the Soviet Union which rejects the acquisition of one-sided advantages and regards the insuring of equal security for the two states as the decisive condition. Something else too is indisputable: The American side has moved only with great difficulty--to put it mildly--toward real, effective acceptance of these fundamental principles. Sober notes are being struck today in the remarks of the representatives of official Washington in connection with the SALT-II talks nearing completion. In particular, we refer to the remarks to the extremely influential audiences by U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown and Z. Brzezinski, the President's assistant for national security affairs, who have stressed the importance of the treaty for the specific problems of USSR and U.S. military security and for insuring the necessary strategic stability in the sphere of the political relations between the two states. Of course, the cited opinions cannot be considered in isolation from the positions of broad strata of the American population, 81 percent of which is in favor of the treaty, according to public opinion polls.

This broad support is evidence that the truth about USSR foreign policy and its noble aims is getting home to the ordinary American despite the U.S. administration's frequent zigzags on the SALT problem and despite the endless scaremongering about the "Soviet threat" and the deluge of falsifications about Soviet intentions with which bourgeois propaganda daily swamps the American people. To place a definite obstacle in the way of the further stockpiling of the most destructive and expensive types of weapons, to advance the process of military detente and to improve Soviet-American relations and the entire international situation--these goals of the Soviet Union's policy are becoming increasingly clear to the public of the United States and other countries.

Meanwhile, despite the fact that the treaty has still not been signed, the "motley and vociferous"--in the expression of prominent U.S. public figure G. Kennan--crew of the enemies of detente, stooges of the military-industrial complex and opponents of cooperation with the USSR would like at all costs to wreck it. [paragraph continues]

Hence the demands that the signing of the treaty be "linked" with the development of events in various regions of the globe and that it be "reinforced" by the buildup of new types of armament which it does not cover. To remember these objective realities is to maintain high vigilance and to intensify the struggle to improve Soviet-American relations, to successfully complete the talks on the SALT-II treaty and to bring it into force, and to deepen detente and extend it to all regions of the world.

IZVESTIYA EXAMINES DIVERSE U.S. VIEWS ON DISARMAMENT, DETENTE

ID191537 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 79 Morning Edition p 5 ID

[Article by Doctor of Historical Sciences Vl. Petrov under the rubric "'No!' To the Arms Race!" "The Conditions of Reliable Security"]

[Text] The cult of strength, which is deeply rooted in the U.S. ruling classes' foreign policy thinking and which affects the practical actions of all administrations irrespective of their party base, significantly limits opportunities for seeking mutually acceptable solutions in the main sphere of international relations--limiting and ending the arms race.

In this atmosphere the more moderate and relatively realistic trend in favor of limiting possibilities for solving international problems from a position of strength is struggling to establish itself in the United States. It was by no means altruism on the part of certain representatives of the ruling classes which gave rise to it. It was rather their awareness of the severe consequences of a thermonuclear conflict.

It is highly significant that the struggle by realistically minded politicians and scholars against the advocates of the power approach is developing over the national security doctrine which, since the cold war, has served as a theoretical justification of the "from a position of strength" policy.

On the threshold of the seventies the supporters of a realistic approach to international problems set about demonstrating that under present-day conditions the best way to safeguard national security is to relax tension and not to fuel it, and to take steps to limit military confrontation and the arms race. Their viewpoint was heavily reinforced by the 1972-1974 Soviet-American joint documents, especially those relating to lessening the danger of war and limiting the arms race.

Nevertheless, the struggle over the question of ways of safeguarding national security continues in the United States even today. And this is no accident since at the top of the agenda we now find the question whether international relations will develop in the direction of growing trust and cooperation or growing mutual fear, suspicion and stockpiling of weapons. "For a multitude of reasons," Washington POST commentator M. Childs points out, "we are currently going through a decisive stage in that the question as to what path the superpowers will take--the path of accelerating the arms race leading to a nuclear hecatomb or the path of marking the reduction of the massive arsenals of weapons--is being solved...."

At one extreme of the struggle there are forces who, like the French aristocrats who returned to Paris in the wake of Louis XVIII, have "forgotten nothing and learned nothing." They imagine that all that is needed is yet another spurt in the arms race and the United States will be able, if not to bring back the days of the American nuclear monopoly, then at least to achieve a certain superiority and dictate its terms in violation of the principle of equality and identical security jointly adopted by the Soviet Union and the United States.

A typical example of this type of approach is the position adopted during last year by various leading organs of the U.S. Republican Party. In its "declaration on questions of national security and foreign policy" the Republic faction in the Senate demanded that the administration step up the arms race and pursue a hard-line policy in relation to the Soviet Union backing this up with the hackneyed propaganda slogan about the "growing Soviet military threat to the United States." Rightwing organizations, such as the "Committee on the Present Danger," the "Coalition for Peace Through Strength," the American Security Council and others, use similar "arguments" to justify building up of arms.

It is characteristic, however, than an every-increasing number of politicians and scholars have recognized the fatal consequences of this approach both for international relations as a whole and for the national security of the United States. "Since the end of World War II," F. Church, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "the United States has spent $1 trillion creating a massive nuclear arsenal and as a result has managed to become the least secure country in the world." According to the prominent American specialists Townsend Hoopes and Herbert Scoville in their memorandum to Congress, the present level of U.S. military expenditure is a "danger to the cause of peace and detente." According to their assessment of national security requirements U.S. military expenditure in fiscal 1979 could be painlessly cut by $10.5 billion.

Realistically minded politicians and scholars oppose U.S. rightwing forces' attempts to hinder the achievement of concrete results at the Soviet-American disarmament talks.

Former U.S. representative to the United Nations C. Yost draws attention to the fact that the American "hawks'" assertions about the "Soviet military threat" are aimed at wrecking the whole process of limiting the arms race and are therefore "a disservice to U.S. national security." Polemicizing with former U.S. Under-Secretary of State Eugene Rostow, who urges the country to "arm to the teeth," Prof. G. Kistiakowsky, former assistant to President Eisenhower for science and technology, points out that to follow recommendations of this nature would pose a serious threat to the United States since it might lead to "uncontrolable crises" and the spread of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

The supporters of the new approach to national security questions attach paramount significance to strategic arms limitation which, as Senator F. Church stresses, is the only reasonable alternative to the senseless arms race. According to F. Church, new laps in the strategic arms race will not only fail to strengthen U.S. security, they will weaken it. Therefore he associates the achievement of stability and safeguarding of security with fruitful strategic offensive arms limitation talks.

The prospect of strengthening both general and national security by implementing measures limiting states' arms appeared as a result of relaxation of international tension and a higher level of cooperation among states with different social systems. The further development of this basis of the process of easing international tension urgently requires that political detente by supplement by military detente. There comes to the fore the need for concrete measures to lower the ceilings of military confrontation while preserving the sides' equal security. Attempts to gain military advantages under modern conditions inevitably bring the destabilization of international relations.

"We only need reliable security," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed in reply to a TIME magazine question. [paragraph continues]

"And security will undoubtedly be greater for both sides if the arms race is curbed, military preparations are reduced and the political climate of international intercourse is normalized."

The history of the struggle for disarmament is filled with evidence of specific and tangible Soviet foreign policy initiatives aimed at ending the arms race, above all the nuclear arms race, and providing political and legal guarantees of states' security. Just since the war the USSR has submitted a total of over 100 proposals.

Considering that the tempo of the arms race is still outstripping of the states' efforts to check it and that the gap is growing, the Soviet Union believes that the time had come to do everything possible not only to narrow this gap and then eliminate it altogether but also to insure that the fruits of the disarmament talks overwhelm the arms race and contribute to its demise.

The Soviet Union is making every effort to bring a successful conclusion the 6 years and more of work in the elaboration of a new Soviet-American strategic offensive arms limitation treaty (SALT-II).

"The treaty's entry into force," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev told voters, "will mean that the process of curbing the arms race, initiated by the USSR, is continuing." The SALT-II treaty should help to instill life into the other disarmament talks such as the talks on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons tests (the tripartite talks involving the USSR, the United States and Britain), on limiting the conventional weapons trade (Soviet-American talks), the talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe (talks involving the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, the United States, Britain, the FRG and a number of other West European countries).

The Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries are prepared to hold talks on all aspects of the arms race problem. As the 23 November 1978 Moscow declaration of the Warsaw Pact states stresses: "There is no type of arms which the socialist states represented at the conference would not be prepared to limit or reduce on the basis of strict observance of the principle of not prejudicing the security of any country."

The Soviet Union's active, enterprising line toward curbing the arms race and toward the speediest transition to real disarmament enjoys widespread support in the world. It is highly indicative that the 33d UN General Assembly session approved our proposals on security guarantees for non-nuclear states and on the nondeployment of nuclear weapons on the territories of countries where there are none at present and also--and this is particularly important--urged the nuclear powers to start talks on the total discontinuation of nuclear weapons production and the reduction of stockpiles.

Many states in the world and broad strata of the public in various countries share the Soviet Union's principled view that the cardinal solution of the question of its own security, the security of its allies and the security of peoples all over the world consists not in the arms race but in stopping it and consolidating and deepening detente.

PRAVDA HITS ANTI-SALT STANCE OF 'PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH' GROUP

LD191235 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent N. Kurdyumov report: "In the Spirit of the Cold War"]

[Text] Washington, April--U.S. reactionary militarist circles are increasingly sabotaging the relaxation of international tension in an attempt to wreck the Soviet-U.S. SALT agreement which is being elaborated, to sour Soviet-U.S. relations and push the United States onto its former path of confrontation with the USSR.

The aggressive lobby of the military-industrial complex, which last year united with other anti-Soviet organizations into the so-called "Coalition for Peace Through Strength," is particularly zealous in the business of galvanizing a cold war atmosphere.

A group of high-ranking retired officers gathered in Washington's Army and Navy Club has just made a new series of malicious attacks on the Soviet-U.S. talks.

As their pretext for fueling an anti-Soviet militarist hysteria in the country the U.S. "hawks" this time chose the new strategic offensive arms limitation agreement (SALT-II) which the two sides are preparing. A specially prepared 62-page report described this agreement as nothing other than "a symbol of the defeatist policy" of the United States since it allegedly gives unilateral advantages to the Soviet Union. Other "yesterday's men"--former Navy Secretary W. Middendorf, former Air Force Secretary T. Reed, former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm T. Moorer and Gen L. Lemnitzer, former Chief of Air Force Intelligence G. Keegan and former Chief of Staff of U.S. Forces in South Korea J. Singlaub--spoke in the same spirit at a press conference which was held. The main topic of their speeches was the allegation that SALT-II "jeopardizes U.S. security."

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, speaking of the "activation of conservative forces in the country" with a view to wrecking the SALT agreement, notes that "SALT-II is opposed by those who prefer an unrestricted arms race."

RESULTS OF TOKYO ROUND OF GATT TALKS IN GENEVA ASSESSED

LD192326 Moscow TASS in English 2258 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

["In a Labyrinth of Contradictions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, April 19, TASS--The agreement reached in Geneva as a result of tough bargaining by the biggest capitalist countries, participants in the "Tokyo round", failed to resolve basic differences among them. This conclusion is made by the American press commenting on the results of the new round of talks on the liberalization of international trade, held within the GATT framework.

The weekly U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT says that a battle, the like of which has not been seen in the Western world for half a century, is on the way. This pessimistic appraisal, which is also shared to greater or lesser extent by other American and West European newspapers, shows the temporary character of the compromise which was reached with great difficulty in Geneva.

Indeed, although the United States succeeded in wresting a number of concessions from its West European partners by using the policy of "arms twisting" the new agreement cannot satisfy fully either side.

In explaining to American businessmen and congressmen the results of the "Tokyo round", official representatives of the Washington administration emphasize that the agreement offers great opportunities for increasing American exports. The state of exports is a painful issue for the USA which, as the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT says, now resembles an aging champion who is yielding its positions to a group of competitors. It is asserted in Washington that the unequal reduction of import tariffs imposed on the European Economic Community as well as limitations on the so-called "non-tariff barriers" will bring the United States economic benefits running into 10 billion dollars a year.

At the same time economists admit that the Geneva package will not help liquidate the U.S. chronic foreign trade deficit which reached 28.5 billion dollars last year and hence will not solve the problem of inflation.

As for the U.S. partners, they fear that the reduction of import tariffs by them under the agreement will lead up to a sharp increase in American exports of agricultural produce to these countries. This will adversely affect their economies and create difficulties for their farmers and peasants. On the other hand, the EEC members and Japan are concerned by Washington's intention to keep its protectionist barriers against imports of steel, colour TV sets, footwear, textiles and other goods.

Local political observers forecast the further aggravation of this competitive struggle.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONTINUES USSR VISIT

Arrival in Moscow

LD191758 Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--A delegation of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress headed by Deputy Democratic Majority Leader in the House John Brademas has arrived in Moscow from a tour of this country.

The American congressmen placed a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier near the Kremlin Wall. The guests observed a minute of silence in the tribute to the memory of the Soviet fighting men, who gave up their lives in the struggle against fascism, in the name of last peace on earth. Then the guests attended the joint session of both chambers of the Soviet parliament. Talks will open in the Kremlin in the evening today between deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the American congressmen.

John Brademas told a TASS correspondent that the visit to the tomb of the unknown soldier near the Kremlin was a reminder that we need to work hard to make sure that we never again need monuments for the unknown soldiers. And therefore the subject of arms control will be very high on the agenda of the conversations with our Soviet colleagues.

Our tour of the USSR was very useful, John Brademas went on to say. We had an opportunity to get a better understanding of the idea of the Soviet citizens and officials of the most important issues of the present. This visit will undoubtedly be a contribution to the cause of deepening of detente in Soviet-American relations, the head of the delegation pointed out. We have just learned, John Brademas said, that Leonid Brezhnev has been re-elected president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Allow me to congratulate him on this occasion. I also want to congratulate Leonid Brezhnev on his re-election to the high post of the president, said Robert Michael, deputy head of the delegation. During the period in which Mr Brezhnev has headed the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Union has prospered and done well.

Attends Supreme Soviet Session

LD191754 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--A delegation of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress led by John Brademas today attended the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The session of the Soviet parliament in the Kremlin is in its second day. It has elected the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU CC, has again headed. The delegation is on a visit in the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet parliament. It visited Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia (Soviet Transcaucasus) and Leningrad.

Our delegation has arrived for talks with Soviet MP's on most important issues facing our two countries, in the first place on the limitation of strategic offensive arms as well as the development of trade relations, Brademas told a TASS correspondent. He expressed hope that the talks will be productive and will help improve mutual understanding on a number of important issues.

"We hope, we want to believe that the forthcoming talks will contribute towards an improvement of Soviet-American relations in general, and in particular to the speediest completion of the work, whose significance for the peaceful life of the peoples can hardly be overestimated, said Aleksandr Chakovskiy, noted Soviet author and publicist, addressing the session. Aleksandr Chakovskiy takes part in the work of one of the two commissions for foreign affairs of the Soviet parliament. "I bear in mind the signing of a Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty'.

"Many Soviet peace initiative put forward by the CPSU, the Soviet state in recent years and directed at curbing the arms race, are particularly topical now that the international situation has complicated," Aleksandr Chakovskiy stressed.

U.S. PLANS FOR 'GLOBAL SHIELD' EXERCISE ENDANGERS SECURITY

LD191237 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 79 p 5 LD

[Oleg Anichkin commentary: "Provocative Action"]

[Text] UPI reports that the U.S. Strategic Air Command has decided to hold large-scale strategic maneuvers this year, "simulating nuclear warfare." The maneuvers, which have the codename "Global Shield," are to begin without any additional information or notification and without inviting foreign observers to them.

Some 120,000 U.S. servicemen stationed at 52 military bases in various parts of the world will take part in the maneuvers. Missile weapons, but without nuclear warheads, will be used. An "unarmed" ICBM that will travel 5,000 miles over the Pacific Ocean will be launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

It is planned to dispatch strategic bombers in the direction of the USSR but it is stated they will not cross its borders. In other words, aircraft will simulate an attack and at the last moment turn back. The Soviet Union, which also will not be notified of the time of the maneuvers, is allowed to draw whatever conclusions it likes when its radar registers the approach of the U.S. air armada.

It has been announced that the choice of time for the maneuvers will not be linked with any aspect of the world situation at the moment when the U.S. military wants to play out the sinister spectacle of the nuclear apocalypse.

The Pentagon has never been noted for any particular scruples when it comes to respecting the interests of other states and of international security. This time, however, it has surpassed itself. It does not care that the Final Act of the all-European conference bears the signature of the U.S. President, which pledges to reduce the danger of an armed conflict and to this end, in particular, to inform all other signatory states of its large-scale military exercises. The Pentagon is perfectly aware that "the simulation of nuclear wars," and moreover in such a provocative arrangement as that which has been announced, cannot fail to burden relations between the USSR and the United States and create additional complications for the attainment of agreement between them on the most important international questions.

The strategic maneuvers are most likely being undertaken because of the prospect of the conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. SALT-II agreement. And this prospect is so disliked by the U.S. "hawks" that it has tempted them to play out, under conditions as close as possible to real ones, the scenario of a nuclear catastrophe. The Pentagon's decision announced by the U.S. news agency is arousing indignation and resolute condemnation.

U.S. POLITICAL MOTIVES HINDER IMPROVED USSR-AMERICAN TRADE

LD191232 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD
[Yuriy Yelyutin commentary]

[Excerpt] Lately attempts are being made in the U.S. Congress to find ways of normalizing trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union. Among other things is being proposed that the President have the right, with the consent of Congress, to give the Soviet Union the most-favored-nation treatment and grant credits first for 1 year and then for 5 years, in accordance with the existing trade and credit legislation. The efforts made in the United States Congress to change the existing legislation are regarded by the Soviet people as a positive trend. But what is now being proposed can hardly be in the interest of both Soviet foreign trade organizations and American firms having trade dealings with the Soviet Union.

What is now being suggested does not really solve the problem, that is removing discrimination against the Soviet Union, since that discrimination continues to be a law. The Soviet leaders have repeatedly stated that they regard discrimination against the Soviet Union in trade and credits not as an economic reason but rather as a political problem. Therefore the change in the United States trade and credit legislation to our mind should be such that it would make it possible to put into effect the Soviet-American agreement on trade of 18 October 1972 at least for a 3-year period as was originally provided; and of course no problem should be raised that has nothing in common with trade. A step-by-step introduction of a trade agreement first for 1 year and then for 5 years, cannot create conditions for the development of mutually advantageous trade between the two countries. The more so since the U.S. President would preserve the right to annul at any time the most-favored-nation trade status and the granting of credits.

And finally it is hard to imagine that under such conditions Soviet organizations and American firms would make deals on large-scale projects that go beyond the framework of 1 year. In the Soviet Union there is a planned economy, and the planning is done for many years ahead and each element of the economy is closely tied up with another. Therefore the Soviet Union cannot make any sections of its economy dependent on, say, the moods of American congressmen or representatives of the administration. In other words, a superficial solution of the problem of normalizing Soviet-American trade can only further aggravate the atmosphere of uncertainty and further question the reliability of the United States as a trading partner. It can only be hoped that the American congressmen now in the Soviet Union will be able to assess in a correct way the Soviet stand and to make a constructive contribution to normalizing Soviet-American trade relations.

U.S. COVERUP OF KOREA BRIBERY SCANDAL CONTINUES

LD192336 Moscow TASS in English 1422 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Washington, April 19, TASS--The U.S. Government is in a hurry to close the so-called "South Korean case"--the scandalous exposure of bribe-taking and corruption of American legislators who for many years got handouts from agents of the Seoul regime in exchange for "safeuarding" South Korea's interests in Washington. The Department of Justice has stopped investigations of the businessman Grover Connell, one of the key figures in the "operation" to bribe congressmen, "for lack of evidence".

The "pardoning" of Connell is a typical maneuver by the American "justice" that did everything in recent years to hush up this big political scandal in which more than a hundred American legislators were involved. Of the more than a hundred congressmen who got money from the South Korean regime only two "former" legislators, Richard Hanna and Otto Passman, were put on trial. The first was found guilty on forty counts of the indictment but got off with a mere six months in jail. The second was "acquitted" by means of all sorts of judicial tricks.

Three congressmen faced a committee of the House of Representatives that investigated their "unethical behavior." All three were "reprimanded," that is got the mildest form of punishment. This did not prevent two of them, Edward Roybal and Charles Wilson, from being re-elected to Congress last November. At present the American judiciary is trying to shelve the two remaining cases related to the South Korean scandal.

The obvious covering up of high-placed bribe-takers gives rise to growing indignation in the United States. Lee Hamilton, a member of the House of Representatives, voiced deep concern at the obviously incomplete investigation and stressed that he was alarmed no less by the attitude of Congress itself to violations by legislators of elementary norms of ethics and decency.

SOVIET ASTRONOMER AMBARTSUMYAN HAILS U.S. VOYAGER MISSION

ID190737 [Editorial Report ID] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian in its 6 April Morning Edition publishes on page 3 under the heading "Jupiter's Ring" a 1,000-word interview by S. Bablumyan with academician V. Ambartsumyan, director of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory in Armenia, on the discovery by the U.S. Voyager spacecraft of a ring around the planet Jupiter. Ambartsumyan states that "S.K. Vsekhsvyatskiy, Soviet astrophysicist and professor at Kiev University," predicted "the existence of a ring round Jupiter and powerful volcanic activity on its satellites" as early as 1960, although "it must be said that at that time S.K. Vsekhsvyatskiy's ideas were far from being understood by all his colleagues." Ambartsumyan notes that these predictions were published in French and German as well as Russian, so that "it is the mass information media employees who were ill-informed" in alleging that nobody suspected the existence of the ring--not the "researchers working on Voyager."

The interview concludes:

[Question] Thus should Vsekhsvyatskiy alone be credited with the discovery of the ring round Jupiter and the tremendous volcanic activity on its moons?

[Answer] No. The American researchers working on Voyager have not only completely confirmed Vsekhsvyatskiy's conclusions but have made them definite. Their observations have made it possible to ascertain the size and density of the ring, the size and number of volcanoes on Jupiter's moons and also other details. New notions about the Jovian system have taken shape as a result. And the credit for this belongs equally to Vsekhsvyatskiy and our American colleagues. Furthermore, this is a fine example of how observations, by confirming a theory, can greatly augment and increase the significance of theoretical results.

"The researchers who created Voyager and obtained television broadcasts from it also achieved the spin-off of making information about the ring and the volcanoes, hitherto known to just a small number of astronomers, generally available. They have also obtained a great deal of most valuable data about the processes occurring on the surface of Jupiter itself. New and even more profound tasks have now emerged which will be resolved by the common efforts of researchers from various countries. It seems to me that this entire story, which bears witness to the importance of interaction and cooperation between scientists from various countries, is very instructive."

GLEBOV ON PRC DECISION TO TERMINATE SINO-SOVIET TREATY

OW192020 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 18 Apr 79 OW

[Text] On 17 April RENMIN RIBAO carried a lengthy article defending the Beijing leaders' decision to terminate the Soviet-Chinese treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance. Glebov, this station's observer on political issues with foreign countries, has the following comment:

Mao Zedong had always worshipped the United States. He believed that the moon in the United States was brighter than the one in China and in other countries and that the rocks in the United States were harder than those in other countries.

In March 1945 at Yenan, Mao Zedong told a U.S. diplomat: China lacks the capabilities to build large industries. China cannot compare with the United States in turning out highly specialized products. The United States needs markets to sell its heavy industrial products and specialized products. In addition, the United States also appreciates the opportunity to make investments. Neither China's peasants nor its people are ready for socialism, and they will not be ready for a long time.

These words form the basis on which Mao Zedong tried to undermine Sino-Soviet ties, and his successors decided to terminate the Soviet-Chinese treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance. It was precisely on this vicious anti-Soviet, antisocialist basis that Mao Zedong strove to achieve his (?goal). At first, he colluded with U.S. imperialism stealthily, but later he did so overtly. To show his loyalty, he even changed his orientation and copied the capitalist world in developing China's economy. This seriously damaged China's economy. Instead of being raised, the living standards of the Chinese people declined.

Mao Zedong's successors have not dared to criticize his proimperialist and antisocialist policies. They have failed to reach any conclusions on this subject, and they are continuing to follow the anti-Soviet road. Objectively speaking, this has created conditions under which the imperialists, primarily the U.S. imperialists, can enslave China. The imperialists have made more gains or profits in China than Mao Zedong originally promised them.

Talks are now being held at various places on permitting the United States and other imperialist countries to establish (?monopoly) enterprises and to open up friendship mines in China as well as on permitting imperialist and monopoly organizations to establish branch enterprises and companies in various Chinese cities. At the same time, the imperialists are making it clear beforehand that they have the right not only to exploit China's cheap labor but to take their profits out of China.

In a word, China has once again returned to the situation that existed under Chiang Kai-shek's rule. Briefly put, China has once again become a semicolonial and hereditary domain of U.S. imperialism. It is therefore understandable that the current Beijing leaders terminated the 1950 Soviet-Chinese treaty and launched a criminal war of aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In this way, they wanted to show that they are loyal to the pro-U.S. (?characteristic) of Mao Zedong. They have firmly prevented China from returning to the socialist road and also prevented the restoration of friendly relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

All this will naturally cause new misfortunes and hardships for the Chinese people. Zhongnanhai, however, has never been concerned with the people's sufferings. From what has been said above, we can judge who should be held responsible for terminating the document that symbolizes the friendly and reliable guarantee for China's security as well as for the progress of China's society and economy.

PRC ACTIONS AIM TO WRECK 'DIFFICULT' TALKS WITH HANOI

LD191212 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0300 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Kolchanov]

[Text] China has asked Vietnam to return the body of the Chinese military pilot whose plane crashed 4 days ago in Vietnamese territory. AFP, in its report points out that the Chinese note appeared after it became clear that the first day of the Vietnamese-Chinese talks in Hanoi had ended without results. Let us add that the fault was precisely that of the Chinese side. Vietnam radio, by the way, has reported that the Chinese airplane, in violating Vietnamese airspace, crashed deep inside the country's territory, and that the body of the pilot was handed over to the Chinese side on 16 April. And now a XINHUA dispatch maintains that the plane did not violate the Vietnamese border at all, but simply was on a training flight and had lost control. Why, one asks, are Chinese airmen being trained over the territory of a neighboring socialist country? That question, I feel, does not need an answer. Beijing's actions are evidently aimed at further building up tension in relations between the two countries and at wrecking the already difficult Vietnamese-Chinese talks.

BEIJING DISTORTS NATURE OF SOVIET AID TO AFGHANISTAN

LD191555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 79 p 5 LD

[Article by TASS political observer S. Kulik: "Behind a Screen of Lies"]

[Text] And so, according to the "norms" of international relations to which Beijing has been adhering for some time, sending terrorists into a particular country to act against its legitimate government is classfied as "a show of good neighborliness," while the sending of specialists to that country to help develop the national economy is regarded as "impertinent interference in internal affairs."

These are just a few of the absurdities abounding in the commentary recently disseminated by XINHUA and repeated by Beijing radio, which distorts the internationalist nature of the aid being given to friendly Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. The Beijing agency tries in vain to prove that the USSR is all but seeking to turn that sovereign state into its "16th republic." Here it grossly distorts the essence of Soviet-Afghan relations and casts aspersions on the peaceful nature of the friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation treaty between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and on the multifaceted forms of mutually advantageous relations traditionally developing between our countries.

This commentary is entitled "Moscow's smokescreen." However, even a cursory familiarization with it is sufficient to understand that XINHUA disseminated it in order to try to cover up Beijing's unseemly role in the anti-Afghan campaign with a smokescreen of black lies. It is a campaign which the Maoists are once again mounting in concert with the imperialists and Arab reaction.

Evaluating Beijing's statements and commentaries in the PRC mass media on relations between the DRA and the USSR, Afghanistan's KABUL TIMES calls them malevolent. "The question involuntarily arises: How does Beijing radio differ from imperialist radio stations, if both are making false propaganda against DRA policy?"

Judge for yourselves. It is no secret that a number of treaties and agreements have been signed between the USSR and the DRA which provide for this developing country to be given selfless Soviet assistance in very diverse spheres. Suffice it to say that more than 100 agricultural, industrial and cultural projects have already been or are being constructed in the DRA with the Soviet Union's assistance. Cooperation between our countries grew particularly active after the April revolution in Afghanistan, which ushered in fundamental socioeconomic transformations on Afghan soil. "The Soviet Union was among the first to recognize the DRA after the revolution's victory," the KABUL TIMES points out. "The USSR has never tried to impose its own policy on us."

But how did the Chinese pseudofriends of this developing country react to the progressive changes in Afghanistan? Soon after the DRA Government had taken an anti-imperialist stand in the international arena and adopted a policy of expanding ties with the Socialist countries, Beijing switched to supporting antigovernment elements in Afghanistan.

It can hardly be considered a simple coincidence, for example, that the recent events in Herat were immediately preceded by a congress held in that very city by the pro-Chinese Sholy Jayid and "Sorkha" groupings. Agreement was reached at that gathering on joint actions by Maoists and the extremely reactionary promonarchy "Muslim Brotherhood." Having undergone special training in the PRC, many members of these groupings were then dispatched to DRA territory with the assistance of the Beijing authorities to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism. They have to their account given assistance to bandits and cutthroats--participants in the antigovernment rebellion in Herat--in their attempts to kindle nationalist and separatist sentiments in Badakhshan Province and antigovernment demonstrations in the district center of Farah.

Chinese instructors also participate in training gangs which infiltrate Afghanistan from Pakistan. Weapons, equipment and propaganda materials designed to organize subversive activity against the DRA are now streaming down the road built by the Chinese from Xinjiang to Pakistan. It is known from reliable sources that during a recent visit to Islamabad by a PRC military delegation headed by Zhang Tingfa, commander of China's air force, the Chinese confirmed to the Pakistanis their intention to continue supplying the Afghan rebels with small arms and also to train sabotage groups in Beijing.

The facts prove that subversive activities directed against Democratic Afghanistan and against the Afghan revolution are occupying an ever-increasing place in Beijing's strategic plans. And no smokescreens concocted from lies will help Beijing to conceal this.

JAPAN HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ON PRC ECONOMIC RELATIONS

LD190815 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 79 p 4 LD

[Correspondent I. Latyshev report: "Unjustified Hopes and Valid Fears"]

[Text] Toyko, 13 April--Only recently, some 4 months ago, Japanese business circles were in the grip of certain radiant and far-reaching hopes associated with the signing of the not unknown Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship treaty." These sentiments, dubbed "China fever" in the local press, were caused by at least two factors. On the one hand, the desire could be clearly traced on the part of owners of metallurgical, machine building, chemical and a number of other Japanese companies, which are experiencing serious difficulties with orders and sales of their products under the conditions of a protracted depression, to escape these difficulties with the help of the development of Japanese-Chinese trade. On the other hand, behind these sentiments one could see the efforts of Beijing propaganda, which was striving to create the impression among the Japanese that Japan has henceforth become for Beijing not only the most desired economic partner, but also a school of modern scientific and technical knowledge, management techniques and economic wisdom. This was the spirit of the public statements made in Japan by Deng Xiaoping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, last October. He lavished compliments on Japanese politicians and businessmen for their economic achievements and, not sparing the self-esteem of his compatriots, reviled the economic backwardness of Maoist China. At a Tokyo press conference he stated: "We do not close our eyes to the fact that China is far behind the other industrial countries.... And there is no point in depicting ourselves as handsome if we really have an ugly face.... China has much to learn from Japan, particularly in such spheres as science, technology and finance."

Tempting Japanese businessmen with expatiations on Japan's special role in the forthcoming "modernization" of China, Deng Xiaoping did not stint promises of big Chinese orders for all kinds of Japanese goods and scientific and technical services. This had a certain intoxicating effect on the minds of some gullible dealers here. They were already seeing colossal profits pouring into their pockets from the "boundless" Chinese market. Maintaining these illusions, Chinese trade institutions held a whole series of talks with Japanese firms on the subject of concluding various contracts. The biggest of these was a contract for the joint construction of the Baoshan metallurgical combine in the suburbs of Shanghai, and according to the terms of this contract the total sum of deliveries of Japanese equipment was to amount to about 400 billion yen.

However, the Japanese businessmen's bright hopes proved short-lived. They were dispelled by the Beijing bosses themselves, who unleashed their armed intervention in Vietnam on 17 February and almost at the same time began to review the economic commitments they had just adopted. Thus at the end of February, without taking the trouble to explain the reasons for its actions, the Chinese side unexpectedly informed a number of Japanese firms that it intends to "halt" the implementation of all contracts concluded with the Japanese since the second half of last December.

As a result the contract on the construction of the Baoshan combine, the plans for both sides to extract oil on the South China Sea shelf (in the Strait of Bohai) [as published], and many other similar joint projects were left hanging in midair. The Chinese delegates who were conducting talks on these questions in Japan hurriedly packed their bags and went home, significantly explaining the reason for their departure as being that the "interests of the motherland" required it. [paragraph continues]

This refusal by the Chinese side to hold further talks which was as unexpected as it was unceremonious, caused an outburst of indignation among Japanese businessmen: Twenty Japanese firms sent a joint protest telegram to Beijing. But naturally this had no effect on the Chinese side's decision.

Today the Japanese press and specialists are trying to comprehend what made Beijing carry out such an abrupt turn in its economic course. First, they see the Chinese intervention in Vietnam, which required unprecedented currency expenditure on purchases of foreign weapons and ammunition, and consequently a reduction in expenditure for other purposes as one reason. The exacerbation of the differences within the Chinese ruling clique over which sectors of national production should be given preference in the use of currency reserves with a view to "modernizing" the economy is seen as another reason. Third, Beijing's disrespectful steps with respect to the Japanese side are assessed here as a direct result of the Chinese-American rapprochement and a manifestation of Beijing's desire to increase the U.S. share in China's system of economic ties with foreign countries by reducing somewhat the share of Japan, which until now has been China's leading economic partner.

But whichever of these versions is true, one thing is clear: The new zigzag in Japanese-Chinese trade is associated one way or another with China's acute shortage of currency resources, which are necessary for the further expansion of this trade--a shortage caused by the generally deplorable condition of the Chinese economy, and in particular by the lack of goods in Beijing's possession which could meet the requirements of its foreign trade partners. As time goes on, Japanese economic experts note increasingly clearly the unfounded nature of Beijing's calculations on the possibility of successfully resolving the currency problem by means of further increasing exports of Chinese oil--the country's main export product. The point is that the demand for Chinese oil is not very great either in Japan or in other foreign countries, since the oil contains too much paraffin and sulphur. Equally there is little demand in Japan for China's second most important export--hard brown [buryy kamennyy] coal, which produces too much ash. As for such Chinese goods as textiles, sewn goods, food products, crockery and so forth, their suppliers approach the Japanese market essentially as direct competitors of local firms, and this complicates the possibility of a significant increase in their exports to Japan. On the other hand, recently and particularly since the normalization of Chinese-American relations, more and more obstacles to Japanese firms in trade with China have been created by competition from their rivals in the form of American firms producing similar [odnoimennyy] products. All this taken together has meant that the "China fever" in Japanese business circles today has not only abated, but is being replaced by pessimistic sentiments in which one can clearly perceive a lack of faith in the possibility of lasting business cooperation with Beijing.

Noteworthy in this respect are recent Japanese press statements noting that trade with China is in essence not so very important for Japan. The newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN, for instance, publishes in this connection official statistics according to which last year China accounted for only 2.8 percent of Japanese foreign trade.

Going on to draw attention to Beijing's inconsistency and unreliability as a trade partner, the newspaper writes: "Reality tells us that China's economic diplomacy continues, as before, to turn first one way and then the other." This fact, as the newspaper points out, has led many experienced leaders of Japanese firms to the conclusion that "trade with China is fraught with all kinds of surprises, nothing can be predicted in advance, and therefore we must not pin too much hope on it." Commentaries in the newspapers ASAHI and YOMIURI are in the same spirit.

The Chinese troops' invasion of Vietnam finally revealed Beijing as a dangerous and irresponsible political force prepared to plunge the world into the abyss of world war. Arousing profound concern for the destinies of peace in Asia among broad strata of the Japanese public, Beijing's aggression also dispelled the illusions of those shortsighted supporters of rapprochement with China who were until quite recently inclined to see the Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship treaty" as "means of stabilizing the international situation in the Far East." It is no accident that to ASAHI, the country's attack on Vietnam "aroused the anger of the international public and deepened doubts as to the peaceful and antihegemonist nature of Chinese policy." Many Japanese now admit with chagrin that the conclusion of the Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship treaty" objectively made it easier for Beijing to unleash aggression in Vietnam having predetermined the present unprincipled position of the Japanese Government, which has virtually embarked on a path of conniving at Beijing's military adventures. Many people have now become aware of the rashness of the course of economic assistance to Beijing, which is seeking to draw Japan into the current of its aggressive militarist policy and use its economic potential to step up its own military preparations.

Recent events are insistently making the Japanese political world, including business circles, think about ways of further developing both Japanese-Chinese relations and relations with other countries. In essence it is a question of whether the country should go against the cause of peace and find itself drawn increasingly onto the path of assisting the notorious "modernization" of China--the path of building up the military and economic potential of Beijing, which is capable of new armed adventures--or whether it should renounce the dangerous playing with fire and be guided by its own national interests, which demand stability and peace in the system of international relations.

What choice Japan's responsible circles intend to make is as yet unknown. But the current reassessment of values in the country's business spheres and the loss of former faith in the prospects for Japanese-Chinese economic rapprochement among many businessmen here obviously cannot fail to affect government positions. Today it is becoming more difficult than before for the inveterate supporters of further rapprochement with Beijing to foist their consciously fallacious course on the country. The country's public opinion is becoming more and more firmly convinced as time goes on of the lack of justification for gambling on Japanese-Chinese economic alliance, of the danger of building up Chinese military potential under the flag of "modernizing" China, and of the risky nature of any deals with the Beijing bosses.

PRC OVERTURES TO PAKISTAN CAUSE CONCERN IN SOUTH ASIA

LD191519 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[V. Midtsev article under "On Topical Themes" rubric: "Provocateur's Visit"]

[Text] Can there be any doubt that Pakistan has an objective interest in developing sincere good-neighborly relations with all countries and primarily Iran, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and India, that is, with those countries situated on the perimeter of its borders? Of course not. No peace-loving country is interested in disrupting good relations with its neighbors. Pakistan is no exception in this respect.

Incidentally, Pakistan's withdrawal from the recently collapsed CENTO military bloc and its entrenchement in the positions of a nonalined country have created the most favorable conditions for the relisble normalization of its relations with all neighboring states. It would be an unforgivable error to let slip such opportunities. All this is clear to those who wish Pakistan well and who are striving for good-neighborliness, international cooperation and the consolidation of the stability of the situation in this part of the world.

The official visit paid to Pakistan from 25 March through 4 April by Zhang Tingfa, member of the CCP Central Committee Politburo and commander of the Chinese Air Force, has shown once again that China is pursuing in this region, as it is in other regions of the world, provocative aims which are in flagrant contradiction to the interests of peace, detente, international security and the prevention of war. From the Chinese militarists' viewpoint the time for this visit was evidently chosen most successfully. The visit was deliberately timed to coincide with the execution of former Pakistani Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto, on whom Beijing once lavished the most rapturous compliments and to whom it rendered extensive aid. Now Beijing is trying to disavow these "sins of the past," voicing approval of the act of cruelty committed during Zhang Tinfga's stay in Pakistan.

In soliciting this visit Beijing calculatingly took account of the fact that recently relations between the United States and Pakistan have deteriorated markedly. Matters reached the point where the United States announced that Washington has decided to halt the aid it has previously promised to Pakistan for development needs totalling $40 million for the current fiscal year and $45 million for the next year. The press links this action with Pakistan's intention to continue to build projects designed to create its own nuclear weapons and also with Islamabad's disregard of President J. Carter's plea for clemency for Z.A. Bhutto.

In sending its military emissary to Pakistan Beijing is displaying its intention to use to its own advantage the deterioration in relations between Pakistan and the United States. But the main factor which prompted Zhang Tingfa's visit to Islamabad was the fact that the Pakistani authorities, as the press has already reported, have allowed their country's territory to be used for the formation and training of gangs of Afghan counterrevolutionaries of every stripe who are struggling against Afghanistan's popular democratic regime, which Beijing hates.

It was formally announced that the aim of Zhang Tingfa's visit was to study the experience of the combat training and activity of Pakistan's Air Force. In actual fact, the Beijing military leader in Pakistan conducted the most impudent inspection of the military staffs, ground air and naval forces, military training establishments and even industrial enterprises producing armaments, including the recently created (Vakha) military-industrial complex. Here he felt himself, as several circles noted, more in control than in his own country where the political situation remains extremely unstable. Not a single political or military figure today can say what will happen to him tomorrow.

It is no accident that the Chinese guest has taken to the Khyber Pass and the Pakistan-Afghan border. The talks which he had with Pakistani officials were, it became known, of an inflammatory nature aimed against the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and India. Promising the Pakistani administration new deliveries of armaments and military equipment, Beijing is setting Pakistan against Afghanistan and India just as it is setting other countries against each other. After all, the sympathies of the Chinese rulers for Pakistan can be explained by the fact that they regard Pakistan only as a convenient military and strategic operations base which Beijing intends to use to build up hostile activity against Afghanistan and India and also to penetrate into neighboring Iran. Beijing is not interested in stability in this region, which has long been included in the sphere of its expansionist plans.

Some people in Pakistani military circles hope that China will give Pakistan aid with modern armaments and military equipment. But at the same time it is precisely within these circles that there is growing dissatisfaction that China supplies obsolete arms and poor-quality military equipment. It is also perfectly clear that provoking Pakistan to hostile actions against its neighbors is a risky undertaking since in succumbing to these provocations Pakistan would be in an extremely disadvantageous and dangerous position. Pakistan can have the best relations with its neighbors if common sense prevails in its policy over the adventurist misconceptions of certain circles incited by Beijing.

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN EXCHANGE TELEGRAMS WITH PAKISTAN'S HAQ

LD201041 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 79 p 2 LD

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] Comrades L.I. Brezhnev and A.N. Kosygin have sent Gen Ziaul Haq, president and head of government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a telegram on the occasion of the country's national holiday--Pakistan Day--in which they conveyed congratulations and best wishes to the friendly Pakistani people.

In a reply telegram, Ziaul Haq expressed gratitude for the congratulations and good wishes and for his part conveyed to the Soviet people wishes for further progress and prosperity. The telegrams express the confidence that the dvelopment of friendly relations between the USSR and Pakistan accords with the interests of the two countries' peoples and makes a contribution to the cause of peace and security in Asia.

AFGHANISTAN STRIVING TO CONTINUE REVOLUTIONARY PROGRESS

Taraki Speaks on Successes

LD192050 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 19, TASS--The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan strives to liquidate the yoke of the exploiters, to be a genuine representative of the working people, and to acquire broad support of the popular masses. It has assumed political power and is now leading the country along the road of economic and social revolution," it was stated by N.M. Taraki, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of the Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, who addressed a meeting of party activ'sts of Paktia Province. His speech is published today in the newspaper KABUL TIMES.

Dwelling on the economic tasks, he noted that the purpose of the April revolution was to improve the living standards of the people, to give them bread, housing and clothing. An important event was the free-of-charge distribution of land. Our government is rendering the peasants assistance in the struggle to wipe up feudalism. They need grain, farm machinery, chemical fertilizers. The government has drawn up a five-year plan for the country's development in conformity with which the Afghan peasants will be provided with everything necessary. All this assistance will be extended through cooperatives.

On the basis of the five-year plan we have carried out reforms which liquidate the feudal relations in the countryside. They will be replaced by relations meeting the interests of the working people. To carry out this task we need the backing and support of all the working people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The party cadres and the Afghan young people, he continued, are confronted with an important task. They must study and at the same time carry weapons. This is particularly true of the young people serving in the army. The armed forces and the civilian young party men must defend the April revolution shoulder to shoulder.

Condemning the counter-revolutionary intrigues of imperialism and Pakistan's reactionary circles against Afghanistan, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, pointed to the need of strengthening revolutionary defence committees which are now being set up in the country. The armed gangs, sent into our country from abroad, he stated, constitute a threat to peace in all of our regions. Those who are preparing an aggression against us are playing with fire. The recent attack on Afghan frontier posts in the province of Paktia received a worthy rebuff from the armed forces of the country and the Afghan people.

The chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan denied the fabrications of hostile propaganda that freedom of conscience was allegedly being violated in Afghanistan.

Kabul Rallies

LD192042 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 19, TASS--"We shall defend the gains of the April revolution," "Down with the henchmen of the imperialists"--these were the watchwords of today's marches and manifestations in the center of the Afghan capital. A mass meeting was held in one of the central squares of Kabul. Taking part in it were representatives of different sections of the Kabul population--workers, intellectuals, employees and students. They angrily stigmatized the intrigues of imperialism and reaction which are endeavouring to arrest the progress of the April revolution, to plunge the country into chaos and disorder.

"We know that the enemies of progress and development, that is enemies of Afghanistan, a TASS correspondent was told by Gulam Ahmad, worker of the Kabul bakery, who took part in the march, wish to perpetuate the old system in our country. But we, workers, firmly say 'no' to them. There is no return to the old system."

According to the BAKHTAR news service, thousands of people from Afghanistan's towns and provincial centers took part in marches in support of the April revolution, measures taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to strengthen the republic, and condemned the interference of foreign states in the country's internal affairs.

The participants of the manifestations expressed the conviction that the enemies of the April revolution would be defeated, because they enjoyed no support among the working people of Afghanistan who have embarked upon the road of building a new society, a society free of exploitation of man by man.

Development of Socialist Ethic

LD191906 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 19, TASS--"The people's revolution in Afghanistan has confirmed the general regularities of the world revolutionary process, the invincible force of the ideas of scientific socialism. At the same time, it has enriched the theory and practice of the struggle of the working people--in the first place of the developing countries--against the feudal, despotic and exploiter regimes, against the intrigues of imperialism and reaction, for their social and national liberation," writes the newspaper HALK in an article devoted to the first anniversary of the April revolution.

The newspaper points out the vanguard role of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in the country's life. "Using the advanced theory of scientific socialism, it writes, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan comes out as a powerful ideological and organizing force, raises the class struggles to the level of conscientious and purposeful actions, mobilises the efforts of the masses for the revolutionary transformation of the society."

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the newspaper HALK goes on to say, has cadres infinitely devoted to the cause of the revolution. Most of them are highly professional and able workers, who have gone through the grim school of revolutionary struggle in underground conditions, have been ideologically tempered and took an active part in the accomplishment of the revolution.

A vivid example of purposeful organising and political work by the party committee is the participation of members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in the practical implementation of the land reform.

The newspaper stresses that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan must bring to the mind of every Afghan citizen that it is in the first place the working people themselves who are architects of their happiness, and that the wellbeing of every Afghan family and Afghanistan's bright future depend on the whole in the first place on conscientious work and joint efforts by the working class, peasantry, handicraftsmen, people's intelligentsia, women, young people as well as the armed forces standing on guard of the peaceful creative labour of the Afghan people.

PHAN HIEN COMMENTS ON SRV-PRC TALKS, SRV PROPOSALS

LD191430 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Talks started today in the International Club building in Hanoi today between the government delegations of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the PRC.

Appraising the results of today's talks Phan Hien, head of the Vietnamese Government delegation and SRV deputy foreign minister, said in a conversation with our correspondent:

[Phan Hien recording in Vietnamese fading into superimposed Russian translation] At the first meeting we stressed the aggressive nature of the Chinese invasion of Vietnam and reminded the Chinese delegation of the crimes which had been committed by the Chinese aggressors, and of their responsibility for all consequences of the war against Vietnam. We also singled out a number of substantive proposals aimed at settling relations between our countries. First, we proposed urgent measures to eliminate the tense situation in the border areas. We would like to rapidly restore peace and stability in these areas and we would like the prisoners to return home as soon as possible. [end recording]

The head of the Vietnamese delegation stressed that Vietnam will continue to proceed from a position of good will in the talks.

NHAN DAN Editorial on Talks

LD192228 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, April 19, TASS--"The Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations in Hanoi are an expression of our good will and desire to normalize the relations between the two countries," it is pointed out editorially by the Vietnamese newspaper NHAN DAN today.

The newspaper stresses that in order to settle the problems existing between the two countries the ruling circles of Beijing should immediately and fully withdraw their troops from Vietnam, should put an end to military provocations, should respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Chinese leaders have unleashed an aggressive war against Vietnam and they bear full responsibility for the committed crimes.

By sitting down at the conference table with China, NHAN DAN says, we wish to restore peace on the border between our two countries, to do away with tension in the border areas, caused by the actions of the Chinese side. It will be possible to resolve the border and territorial issues if the ruling quarters of China will corroborate by deeds their claims that they respect the historically established frontier between the two countries. This would meet the aspirations and true interests of the peoples of Southeast Asia and all the world.

A meeting devoted to questions of ensuring the security and sovereignty of the territorial waters of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has been held at Ho Chi Minh. Addressing the meeting, Pham Hung, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and deputy premier of the Vietnamese Government, said that in the present situation, when the Chinese expansionists are coming out in alliance with the imperialist forces, defence of Vietnam's territorial waters and islands was inseparable from the common cause of defending the country.

Violation of Vietnamese airspace by a Chinese warplane on April 15th and its crash on Vietnamese territory is an irrefutable fact, it is pointed out in the note of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam addressed to the Foreign Ministry of China and circulated here today. The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam declares once again, the document stresses, that the protest lodged by the Vietnamese side against the violation of Vietnamese airspace by a Chinese warplane is fully grounded. The note rejects categorically as unacceptable the demand of the Chinese side to visit the place where the warplane crashed. At the same time, despite the expressed readiness of the Vietnamese side to hand the remains of the pilot over to the Chinese side, the Chinese authorities have still not replied to this manifestation of good will.

KAMPUCHEA'S HENG SAMRIN COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY

ID200238 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 18 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 18, TASS--The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea will further pursue a policy of peace, friendship and non-alignment, building its relations with all countries on principles of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, said President of the People's Revolutionary Council, Chairman of the Central Committee of the United Front for National Salvation of Kampuchea Heng Samrin, speaking at a ceremony to mark the country's national holiday.

We, he stressed, are resolved to consolidate our solidarity and friendship with the fraternal Vietnamese people who side by side with the Kampuchean people are opposed to the reactionary, big-power expansionist policy of Beijing and its puppets the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. Kampuchea resolutely condemns the actions of the Chinese leadership against the Laotian People's Democratic Republic.

Heng Samrin declared that the People's Republic of Kampuchea intends to establish good-neighbourly relations with countries of Southeast Asia in the interests of peace, independence, freedom, neutrality and stability in the region.

KAMPUCHEAN ARMY LIQUIDATING REMNANT POL POT BANDS

ID191738 Moscow TASS in English 1241 GMT 19 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 19, TASS--As reported by the Kampuchean information agency, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Kampuchea with the close support of the local population continued in the past few days operations to liquidate remnants of Pol Pot bands in the area of the town of Poipet, situated near the Kampuchean-Thai border, and 40 kilometers to the west of the town of Sambong in Battambang Province. Hundreds of bandits were killed and large quantities of arms and ammunition seized during the successful operations by units of the revolutionary army to clear the country's territory from the traitors to the people and liquidate seats of counter-revolution.

COMMENTARY STRESSES USSR SOLIDARITY WITH LAO PEOPLE

BK191414 Moscow in Lao to Laos 1130 GMT 18 Apr 79 BK

[Unattributed commentary: "Solidarity With the Lao People"]

[Text] Prior to the forthcoming May Day festival the CPSU Central Committee has issued slogans, one of which is directed to the Lao people. In the slogan, the CPSU Central Committee extends regards to the heroic Lao people and wishes the LPDR long life, progress and prosperity in building socialist foundations. Also in this slogan, the CPSU Central Committee expresses the fraternal solidarity and support of the 265 million Soviet people and the Soviet state, which has upheld its international prestige and pursued a political policy of peace.

With its might the Soviet Union has hindered aggressive schemes of imperialism and Beijing's big-power expansionism. This has been the political policy pursued by the Soviet Government in the development of Soviet-Lao relations over the past 20 years. There is no reason to doubt that the Soviet state, the CPSU and the entire Soviet people will side with the fraternal Lao people while the Chinese Communists are currently threatening the security and independence of the LPDR. People in Vietiane city, towns, rural areas, collective farms, cooperatives, the army and in various agricultural cooperatives of the LPDR are aware of this.

Addressing the first national congress of heroes and emulation combatants, LPDR President Souphanouvong said: We are sincerely grateful to the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries and to all peace-loving forces for resolutely supporting the Lao people's revolution and for supporting socialist construction in Laos.

In her letter to the PRAVDA editorial staff, Mrs (Ilya Somorai) asked: What do the Chinese expansionists want in Vietnam and Laos? She continued: I was a combatant and took part in World War II. I am now an aged textile worker. My children are serving in the ranks of the Soviet Army. I wish to declare that our people will not allow anybody to threaten the independence and sovereignty of the heroic Vietnamese and Lao peoples, who have for several decades engaged in heroic struggles. The letter from this ordinary Soviet woman conforms with the CPSU Central Committee's slogan in reference to the Lao people and also reflects the thinking and spirit of the entire Soviet people.

In our country we consider the Lao people a heroic people, well-known for their struggle against aggressors in the past several decades. Superficially those aggressors were much stronger than the Lao people in terms of arms and other war means, particularly in their powerful air forces. However the Lao people's enemies were completely defeated thanks to the Lao national salvation fighters' courage and determination to defend their independence and freedom. They defeated the U.S. aggressors, puppet soldiers and the Vang Pao and Saigon mercenaries.

The Lao people won a historic victory in 1973. Later, in 1975 they embarked on the path of development without taking a rest. The task of restoring the destroyed economy and normalizing their daily living on the basis of the new path aimed at building and transforming socialist foundations has not been easier than the struggle against the aggressor bandits. Building new things is always easier than destroying old things. However, these old things such as the structure of the monarchy, foreign capitalist interference and oppression and exploitation by the feudalists, capitalists, businessmen and industrialists have been condemned and irrevocably overthrown. Things of the past will never return again as long as the Lao people safeguard the heroic revolutionary traditions and their determination to counter the enemy.

The national congress of heroes and emulation combatants, which ended last week, should serve to remind the entire Lao people of this truth. Those who have won such victories will carry out the task of socialist transformation and construction and will lead in building a complex society in their country. The youths and progressive people at home are following the examples set by them.

The entire Lao people are shouldering the burden of their heavy but noble historic cause, which will decide the country's progress and advancement as well as a happy and plentiful life for the succeeding generations.

Like Vietnam and other socialist countries, the Soviet Union is prepared to assist the people in the LPDR. The various socialist countries have offered their experience to this young people's republic and have provided economic and technical assistance and helped train the ranks of cadres for Laos. For example, in 1978 more than 600 Lao youths were studying in the Soviet Union. Many other Lao youths are studying in the SRV, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the GDR and other socialist countries.

However, it is regrettable that on this important historic occasion, there are factors opposing the construction of socialist foundations in Laos. This includes the danger of aggression from Beijing. All sabotage activities against the LPDR are intended to divide the Lao people, establish a puppet regime on Lao territory and appoint those who are loyal to Beijing to head such a regime. These people (?are able) to gain the support of the reactionaries and cooperate with the U.S. imperialists. Vang Pao, for example, is one of them.

Despite obstacles, the LPDR's international status is being heightened with each passing day, particularly following the victory recorded by Vietnam in defeating the Chinese aggressors and following the success of [words indistinct] in Kampuchea. The diplomatic success of Laos in Southeast Asia was displayed during Kaysone Phomvihan's official visit to Thailand.

We are well aware that the Lao people will resolutely advance on the path they have selected. Alongside the Lao people are their allies and faithful friends such as the people in the various socialist countries.

As the May Day festival approaches the Soviet people wish the heroic Lao people every success in building their socialist foundations. Our regards to the fraternal Lao people.

GIEREK SPEAKS AT PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

LD191517 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "PZPR Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Warsaw, 12 April-- A PZPR Central Committee plenum has been held here, which discussed a report by the PZPR Central Committee Politburo "On increasing the role of the socialized sector of local industry in the country's socioeconomic development."

The plenum adopted a decision recommending that a long-term integrated program be devised for developing local industry so as to insure maximum satisfaction of the Polish people's needs.

Delivering the concluding speech at the congress E. Gierek, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, stressed that increasing production efficiency, speeding up scientific and technical progress and strengthening integration links with the USSR and all of the socialist community must be the main factors in the country's economic development.

Touching on the preparations for the forthcoming Eighth PZPR Congress, E. Gierek proposed that it be convened in the first quarter of 1980. The congress's main task, he said, will be to assess the progress achieved in building a developed socialist society in Poland, as well as to determine the directions in which the country will develop in the eighties, with special regard to the 5-year period 1981-1985.

We will deepen the bond between the party and the people and strengthen the alliance of workers, peasants and intelligentsia in the name of strengthening our socialist state, E. Gierek said.

POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON USSR RELATIONS, WARSAW PACT

LD200244 Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Warsaw, April 18, TASS--Poland attaches prime importance to the strengthening of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Emil Wojtaszek writes in an article in the magazine NOWE DROGI.

We regard the Warsaw Treaty Organization not only as a guarantee of Poland's security but also as a decisive factor of preserving peace in Europe. For this reason we come out for the preservation of the Warsaw Treaty's defence capacities at the necessary level and are making a definite contribution to this, the minister stressed.

The article notes that alliance, friendship and cooperation with the USSR comprise the fundamental guarantee of Poland's independence and security, an important factor of its socioeconomic development. Leonid Brezhnev's meetings with Edward Gierek are of much importance for the further deepening of fraternal ties between the twosstates. The talks between leaders of the Soviet Union and Poland are evidence of the unity and close interaction of the two countries in the pursuance of the policy of peace, detente and disarmament. A particularly important role in this is played by the cohesion of states of the socialist community, the minister writes.

The minister noted further that Beijing is stepping up its adventuristic course directed against peaceful coexistence, detente and disarmament, against stability in various areas of the world, including in Europe. That policy contradicts the vital interests of states of the states of the socialist community, of all peoples of the world.

Beijing's aggression against Socialist Vietnam became an especially dangerous direction of that policy, the minister stressed. It eloquently shows where the expansionism and hegemonism of the Chinese leadership's policy are leading to.

People's Poland, together with other peace-loving forces, will further rebuff Beijing's hegemonistic intentions, will strengthen the community of socialist countries, Emil Wojtaszek writes.

LESECHKO RECEIVES POLISH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER

LD181411 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Friendly Meeting"]

[Text] On 12 April M.A. Lesechko, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received J. Olszewski, Polish minister of foreign trade and maritime economy, and had warm and friendly talks with him.

HUSAK STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF CZECHOSLOVAK-USSR TIES

LD200713 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Prague, April 19, TASS--General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia CC, President of Czechoslovakia Gustav Husak stressed that Socialist Czechoslovakia will further strengthen firendship and alliance with the USSR and the other fraternal countries of the socialist community.

This friendship and alliance are of tremendous significance for Czechoslovakia's security and independence, for ensuring a peaceful life for the Czechoslovak people, he said, speaking in the Prague Castle at a meeting with the working people of the northern Moravia region.

Due to our efforts our party has now a correct Leninist programme, a firm and united leadership, Gustav Husak pointed out. It is precisely due to this that we have politically routed right-wing and counter-revolutionary forces, restored the country's unity, increased its effectiveness and have reached a state when the programme of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia has become a programme of an overwhelming majority of the working people.

HUSAK RECEIVES VISITING PDRY PRIME MINISTER

LD192156 Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Prague, April 19, TASS--Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, president of Czechoslovakia, received today 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Politbureau member of the Yemeni Socialist Party CC, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, who is on an official visit to Czechoslovakia. In the course of their friendly talk the sides discussed prospects of all-round expansion and deepening of bilateral relations in the fields of mutual interest. The sides also exchanged views on some topics of the current affairs.

Prime Minister Ends Visit

LD192158 Moscow TASS in English 1955 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Prague, April 19, TASS--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Yemen and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, completed his official visit here today. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has left Prague.

GORBACHEV DELEGATION RECEIVED BY SLOVAKIA'S LENART

LD191359 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Meetings in Slovakia"]

[Text] Bratislava, 12 April--J. Lenart, member of the Central Committee Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, has received the Soviet delegation headed by M.S. Gorbachev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which arrived here today and which took part in the Ninth National Congress of the United Agricultural Cooperatives of Czechoslovakia. The Soviet delegation inspected a number of Slovakian agricultural enterprises.

ARKHIPOV RECEIVES SFRY ECONOMIC DELEGATION; TALKS END

LD182251 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1700 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] The Soviet-Yugoslav economic talks were concluded in Moscow today. The SFRY Government delegation, which is led by Radoje Kontic, member of the Federal Executive Council, was received by Ivan Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Vitaliy Morozov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The delegation met leaders of several ministries and departments. Apart from Moscow, it also visited Leningrad. The members of the delegation discussed the current level of and prospects for cooperation in the construction of industrial enterprises. Radoje Kontic expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the agreement according to which the Soviet Union helps Yugoslavia in the construction of about 60 factories, electric power plants, mines and other projects. The two sides agreed that consultations should be held in May and June by the planning organs of the two countries on cooperation in the upcoming 5-year period. It is expected that cooperation will be most intense in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, energy and oil processing.

SOVIET NAVAL SQUADRON ENDS VISIT TO YUGOSLAV PORT

LD181656 Moscow TASS in English 1457 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Belgrade, April 18, TASS--A squadron of Soviet warships under the command of Rear Admiral Nikolay Ryabinski completed its official friendly visit to the Yugoslav port of Rijeka today.

TITO ADDRESSES LCY CENTRAL COMMITTEE FESTIVE SESSION

LD191800 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Belgrade, April 19, TASS--A celebration meeting of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia was held here today. It was devoted to the 60th anniversary of the formation of the party, of the Young Communist League and the revolutionary trade unions of Yugoslavia. The report "60 Years of the Revolutionary Struggle of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia" was delivered by President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, President of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito. He said that the formation in 1919 of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia signified a historic turn in the age-old struggle of the masses in Yugoslavia against national oppression and social exploitation. The orientation at the revolutionary renewal of society prevailed already at the constituent congress of the party under the influence of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

REPORTAGE ON GOOD STATE OF SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONS

Giscard Comments on Relations

LD192252 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Paris, April 19, TASS--Speaking on television, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France touched upon a number of home and foreign policy issues. Speaking on his forthcoming visit to the USSR, the President said: "Our relations with the Soviet Union are based on detente. It is of a long standing because it has existed for 14 years now and has been an obvious contribution to the cause of peace and stability in Europe."

Valery Giscard d'Estaing expressed the opinion that in the present complex international situation, France can play a great role in pursuing the policy of detente. We firmly intend to further play this role, he said. In the President's opinion of great significance is the question of combining detente, the requirements of security with a quest for a lower level of spendings on arms in Europe and the world. It is a very difficult problem, for whose solution we have so far done insufficiently. And I intend to discuss this subject in detail with our Soviet counterparts, he said.

The President devoted much attention to the situation in France and his country's economic and social problems.

Soviet, French World Influence

LD191026 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1159 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, 18 April--"By the example of the USSR and France one can be convinced of the importance of political cooperation and political agreement os states with differing social systems," the weekly NOVOYE VREMYA writes in connection with the coming visit to the USSR by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. "It is precisely such cooperation which is the main criterion for international relations, their fruitfulness for the good of mankind and their usefulness for peace in general," the weekly notes in an editorial.

"The Moscow talks will be held at a time when the international situation has become considerably more complex," the NOVOYE VREMYA editorial continues. "The prospects for general peace are darkened by crisis situations in Indochina, the Near East and southern Africa. Compared to other areas of the world Europe so far has not felt as keenly the influence of such negative processes. But even here attempts to increase the already excessive concentration of arms and troops can only put one on one's guard. And here the general design of international reaction makes itself known--to eliminate the positive elements in world politics which have been achieved by the joint efforts of many states with the active participation of the Soviet Union and France."

"It is significant that on many problems of international politics which remain to be solved, the Soviet Union and France hold identical or close views," NOVOYE VREMYA notes. "This relates in particular to problems such as the establishment of a just, comprehensive and stable peace in the Near East."

"Whatever is discussed at the forthcoming Soviet-French talks--whether contributions to the settlement of crisis situations in the world, or more effective approaches to solving disarmament problems, or preparations for the 1980 Madrid meeting of representatives of states which took part in the all-European conference, and other problems, the world listens to the opinion of Moscow and Paris. Interaction and coordinated efforts of the two great powers positively affect the overall tone of international life."

Soviet-French Industrial Cooperation

LD191050 Moscow TASS in English 2052 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

["In the Interests of Peaceful Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Paris, April 18, TASS--The coming summit meeting between French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, will signal a new stage in the development of the mutually advantageous French-Soviet cooperation, Albert Gobert, the general director of the Sogo Society stressed in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

French business circles are confident that the meeting will open up new vistas in the consolidation and expansion of the good and variegated ties between France and the Soviet Union, based on mutual trust.

The Sogo Society sells in France Soviet chemical products, synthetic substances, medicines and raw materials etc. This is one of the mixed Soviet-French societies. Their creation and activities became one of the new forms of mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and France in the field of foreign trade.

The first of these societies was "Actif-Avto" set up in 1966. The society specializes in sales of Soviet tractors and agricultural machinery. Thanks to the efforts by French and Soviet specialists 15,000 tractors have been sold through "Actif-Avto" in France in these years.

"Stanko-France" is in charge of promoting in the French market Soviet-made machines, forging and pressing as well as wood processing equipment. In France at present, Soviet industrial equipment is used in more than 120 industrial enterprises. Also firmly established in the French market is the society "Rusbois" which sells products of Soviet timber and pulp and paper industry.

Joint Soviet-French societies make an important contribution to the expansion of Soviet industrial exports in France. In 1975-1978 their turnover was about five billion francs. This is about 11 percent of the entire trade turnover between the USSR and France.

Joint Space Research

LD200708 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Paris, April 19, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mandrov reports:

The administration of the French National Space Studies Centre (CNES) expresses profound satisfaction with the development of French-Soviet cooperation. As a TASS correspondent was told by Daniel Metzle, chief of the CNES Information Service, joint work by Soviet and French specialists is continuing in keeping with mutual agreement. A whole number of research institutions and laboratories of Bordeaux, Grenoble and other cities of the country took part in the preparation of material for research brought to the Salyut-6 station aboard the Progress-5 transport ship.

The spokesman for CNES pointed out that the French scientists highly evaluated the technical characteristics and the quality of the Soviet technological plant Kristal installed on board the space complex for joint experiments. Joint research in that field is successfully continuing, he said. At present, the research centre of Bordeaux is holding "open-door days" for popularising Soviet-French cooperation in the field of material studies among experts and journalists.

Speaking on behalf of the CNES leadership, D. Metzle wished a successful flight to Soviet cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin for making a practical contribution to the cause of strengthening Soviet-French ties.

PCF'S MARCHAIS ADVOCATES INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE

LD190919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "For Peace and Detente"]

[Text] Paris, 10 April--The French Communists support the proposal to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, G. Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party [PCF], has stated at a mass meeting in the city of St. Denis on the island of Reunion. He said that the PCF opposes the emplacement of nuclear weapons and foreign military bases in this part of the world.

The speaker stressed that imperialism, having suffered serious defeats in Asia and Africa, is building up its military forces in the Indian Ocean. The United States is preparing to station its 5th Fleet in this region as a "deterrent." Thanks to the NATO countries' aid, the South African racists have a base for creating nuclear weapons which considerably supplements the potential of the U.S. war machine in the Indian Ocean region. This situation, he noted, is a serious threat to peoples and the cause of peace.

The PCF general secretary stressed the importance of activating the struggle of all progressive forces for peace and detente. He noted that there are now opportunities for halting the arms race and reducing the weapons arsenals already in existence.

G. Marchais condemned China's aggression against the heroic people of Vietnam and stated that the policy pursued by the Beijing leadership is a threat to peace.

MONDALE IN NORWAY DISCUSSES NATO, OIL FOR ISRAEL

LD181902 Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

["Pressuring the Allies"--TASS headline]

[Text] Oslo, April 18, TASS--U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale now on a visit to the countries of Northern Europe has completed a round of negotiations in Norway. Speaking at the Norwegian capital's city council, he called for an increased "joint contribution" to the strengthening of the NATO, and for a strict implementation of the decisions of the NATO Council session in Washington aimed at a further intensification of the arms race.

Stressing Norway's vantage strategic position in NATO's northern flank, the U.S. vice president informed of plans to create in Norway a system of (?advance) storage of U.S. weapons.

One of the central issues raised during the visit was that of possible supplies of Norwegian oil to Israel. This has been due to the fact that Iran, in the wake of the shah's overthrow, refused to supply oil to Israel. Of late, Washington has been stepping up its pressure on Norway and other countries to obtain their agreement to supply North Sea oil to Israel. According to press reports, however, Norwegian Prime Minister Odvar Nordli said during a meeting with Walter Mondale that Norway saw no possibility, at present or in the future, to export oil to Israel.

U.S. AMBASSADOR BLATANTLY INTERFERING IN ITALIAN AFFAIRS

LD191559 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed "rejoinder"; "The Ambassador Opens the Campaign" from "The World Today" feature prepared by V. Popov]

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Rome, Richard Gardner, has beaten the Italian political parties' propaganda services to it. He has opened the campaign to prepare for the early parliamentary elections more promptly than most. Gardner went to Washington "for consultations" and, according to Italian press reports, agreed there on the following measures to pressure the electorate of the country to which he is ambassador:

--Before the elections high-ranking Americans such as Secretary of State Vance, Secretary Califano and others will visit Italy.

--The U.S. State Department assured Gardner that "although the participation of Communists in the government is entirely a matter for the Italian electorate, the United States would not approve of their participation."

--New York financial circles promised the ambassador that they would once again expand private capital investments in Italy on condition that "the election results contribute to the growth of these capital investments."

Is it possible, one wonders, to conceive of more blatant interference in another country's internal affairs and more overt pressure on the electorate? Fortunately, American anti-communist election campaigns in Italy have led on repeated occasions in the past to results which were opposite to those intended.

BRITISH SKEPTICAL OVER LABOR, TORY ELECTION MANIFESTOS

LD191001 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed report "Election Promises"; from the "World Today" feature compiled by V. Petrusenko]

[Text] The election campaign has been officially launched in Britain. It is to end with the elections on 3 May. The currently ruling Labor Party was the first to put forward its election program. The manifesto set forth by Prime Minister J. Callaghan points out that if they win the elections, the Laborites will make efforts to preserve peace throughout the world one of their chief aims. They proclaim adherence to detente and to cooperation among states. The election manifesto notes the need to improve relations with the USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe. Unlike the Conservatives, the Labor Party promises to reduce the share of national resources being expended on military needs.

The London press publishes extracts from the Conservative Party manifesto. The OBSERVER emphasizes that "the Conservatives spend money on defense with greater ease than the Laborites."

Taking into account the great difficulties being experienced by the British economy and the working masses' dissatisfaction with the high level of unemployment, both parties make alluring promises to extricate the country from its state of crisis. However, this usual election rhetoric is meeting with a skeptical attitude on the part of the British public.

NATO EXPLOITING CYPRUS SITUATION TO CONDUCT SPY ACTIVITIES

LD200522 Moscow in Turkish to Cyprus 1530 GMT 16 Apr 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "NATO Is Profiting by the Continued Abeyance of the Cyprus Problem"]

[Text] According to official reports from Cyprus, President Spiros Kiprianou of Cyprus and Rauf Denktas, Turkish Cypriot community leader, will meet in Nicosia in mid-May. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will be present at the meeting. It is expected that an exchange of views will take place to seek a basis for resumption of the intercommunal talks. Agreement by the parties to agree to an exchange of views on such an important issue is a step--albeit a small one--towards the peaceful settlement of the Cyprus problem. In this sense, the decision for a meeting between Spiros Kiprianou and Rauf Denktas is undoubtedly a positive event in the political life of Cyprus.

It is well known that the Cyprus problem has been awaiting a solution for many years. Despite intercommunal disputes, both the Greek Cypriot community and the Turkish Cypriot community are aware that the continued abeyance of the problem creates unfavorable consequences both for Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots as well as for the Republic of Cyprus as a whole--and the longer the Cyprus problem remains unsettled, the more the unfavorable consequences make themselves felt.

It is a fact that the Republic of Cyprus follows a policy of nonalinement. Cypriot leaders have repeatedly declared the determination of their country to live in peace with all peoples. Despite this, the NATO leadership is making a [word indistinct] effort to transform the island into an Anglo-American spying center, benefitting from the continued unsettled situation on the island and increasing tension in this region.

American U-2 spy planes based in Akrotiri are carrying out reconnaissance flight in the Middle and Near East. According to the periodical IKONES, SR-71 heavy strategic reconnaissance aircraft are carrying out missions as far afield as Japan. But in both cases the main goals of NATO's spying remains the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union. Following the closure of the American spy centers in Iran, reports appeared in the Western press about moving electronic spying devices from Iran's territory to Cyprus. NATO thus took a further step toward strengthening its positions on Cyprus and to transform Cyprus into its support base in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The increased activity of the NATO warmongers on the territory of Cyprus, particularly of the American warmongers, demonstrates not only that the Atlantic bloc ignores the policy of the Republic of Cyprus not to participate in blocs, but also shows that the Atlantic bloc does not pay the slightest attention to the sovereign rights of the republic. The feverish activity of the NATO authorities on the territory of Cyprus takes place, as is known, without the knowledge of the Cypriot authorities and against the wishes of the Cypriots. The Cypriot people have repeatedly claimed the need to abolish the British bases on the island, and thus to liberate itself from the imperialist NATO bloc. But the fact that the Cyprus problem remains unsolved prevents Cypriots belonging to both nationalities from uniting their efforts in the struggle against the attempts of the imperialists to subjugate the island of Cyprus to their aggressive plans.

TREATY REFERENDUM IN EGYPT CHARACTERIZED AS 'FARCE'

LD192214 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 19, TASS--The Egyptian authorities are playing today another political show. The so-called "referendum" is being held in Egypt on As-Sadat's decision. The aim of this "referendum" is to create the illusion of popularity of the political course of the regime, to create the impression that the Egyptians support the traitorous deal with Tel Aviv and other anti-popular actions of the present leadership.

It is stressed in reports from Cairo that the results of this farce are determined in advance. There can be no free expression of the will of the people in the atmosphere of ideological terror, unprecedented hounding of the opposition and suppression of any criticism.

Describing the situation in Egypt on the day of the "referendum" AS-SAFIR writes that a veritable state of siege was introduced in big cities, including Cairo and Alexandria, to suppress possible protests of the opposition. The police and special security forces have been alerted. The streets and squares are patrolled by large police units. Buildings of state institutions are heavily guarded.

Broad sections of the Egyptian population are subjected to reprisals of the regime. On the eve of the farce of "referendum", the Alexandria court sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment another group of participants in a popular uprising that broke out in Egypt in January, 1977, and that was cruelly suppressed by the authorities. Not one of the 24 persons who were sentenced yet came of age.

According to As-Sadat's design, the "referendum" must signify the beginning of the final stage of the restructuring of the entire state and political system of Egypt. During these changes, the Egyptian working people were already deprived of many social and economic gains made by the 1952 anti-imperialist revolution. The present regime intends to continue the course at further curtailment of these gains. As-Sadat is striving to adjust the political and state structure to a new role which Egypt is called upon to play in the Arab East after the signing of the capitulatory deal with Israel--the role of the gendarme, the defender of the strategic interests of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism. In order to play this role without fear, As-Sadat, first of all, needs to stifle the activity of the opposition.

ANALYST VIEWS EFFECTS ON LEBANON OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TREATY

LD192006 Moscow TASS in English 1924 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--TASS political analyst Sergey Kulik writes: The attempts of S. Haddad, leader of the south Lebanese separatists, to proclaim a "mini-state" in the south Lebanese areas bordering on Israel, made with the backing of Tel Aviv, show that Israel and the Arab reaction collaborating with it, have started to discharge the police functions imposed upon them by Washington after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli separate deal.

It is reported by news services that Haddad's gangs, supported by Israeli artillery, shelled throughout the day and night of April 18 the areas where a battalion of Lebanese Government troops is stationed, positions of the United Nations forces, and also Palestinian refugees camps in the suburbs of Tyre. In the meantime Israeli Defence Minister Weizman had a meeting with Haddad and assured him that Tel Aviv would render the necessary assistance to the separatists so as not to allow the Lebanese Army to enter the border enclave.

Tel Aviv controls fully the actions of the south Lebanese separatists and is providing them with ever new quantities of arms and advisers.

What do these alarming facts show? Having acquired freedom on the Egyptian border, Tel Aviv got an opportunity to use the released military potential actively for interfering directly in the affairs of Arab states, backing the forces of internal reaction in the Middle East. It stakes on the creation and legalization in the areas controlled by the Lebanese separatists of a puppet "independent" buffer state, following in the wake of Tel Aviv's and Washington's policy. Its territory will be used as a place d'armes for pressuring Syria with a view to making her give up her principled stand, as a base for dealing blows at the Lebanese national patriotic forces and the Palestinian resistance movement.

Noteworthy also is the fact that the Egyptian leaders and the Cairo press have assumed an attitude to the Lebanese events which shows that Egypt connives at the actions of the Lebanese separatists and their Israeli patrons. Such a stand of As-Sadat's regime helps to reveal certain concealed aspects of the American-Egyptian-Israeli collusion. The United States hopes that identity of Egyptian-Israeli interests in Lebanon may mark the beginning of Cairo's large-scale participation in the struggle against the progressive forces in the Middle East.

The conclusion is clear: The events in Lebanon, the attempts of Israel, relying as it does on Arab reaction, to violate the territorial integrity of that country, are a dangerous consequence of the Egyptian-Israeli deal, which allowed Tel Aviv to give up its confrontation with Egypt and to go over to direct interference in the affairs of the Arabs. This is an alarming symptom showing the direction in which American diplomacy intends to prod on [as received] the events in the Middle East.

The dangerous plans of Tel Aviv, Cairo and Washington can be torpedoed only by the unity of the Arab states, their resolute struggle against the anti-Arab plans to implement the Egyptian-Israeli collusion under the aegis of the United States.

TASS DENOUNCES PROCLAMATION OF SOUTH LEBANON 'MINI-STATE'

LD192356 Moscow TASS in English 2303 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 19, TASS--Lebanese President I. Sarkis declared illegal the actions of Haddad, leader of the Lebanese separatists, who "proclaimed" a so-called "independent state" in the south of the country yesterday. An emergency meeting of the Lebanese Government is scheduled for today. It is to discuss the prevailing situation and measures to be taken to oppose the intrigues of Tel Aviv's south Lebanese henchmen. The military tribunal is expected to be called in Beirut within the next 48 hours. It will look into the criminal actions of the Israeli puppet Haddad, who is charged with high treason.

The statement issued here by the central political council of the national patriotic forces of the Lebanon points out that attempts to create a pro-Israeli buffer mini-state in the south constitutes a betrayal of the national interests. Such puppet formations, according to the Lebanese press, would be used by Israel as a springboard for dealing blows at the national patriotic forces of the Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance movement.

In the meantime, a batallion of the Lebanese regular army, dispatched to the south of the country to take over several keypoints of southern Lebanon, has arrived at its destination. This step was taken in conformity with the United Nations resolutions and is intended as the first step to restore the Lebanon's sovereignty over all the southern territory.

The separatists from Haddad's gangs, who call themselves the "South Lebanon Defence Army", are endeavouring, on Tel Aviv's instructions, to prevent the Lebanese Army from establishing control over the strip of land bordering on Israel. Throughout the day and night of April 18 they shelled the area of the batallion's dislocation, the positions of the United Nations forces and also the Palestinian refugee camps in the suburbs of Tyre.

A heavy artillery assault was launched on the headquarters of the United Nations interim forces in the village of An-Naqurah. Several men of the United Nations forces and civilians were killed or wounded.

Israeli Expansionist Plot

LD191454 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Aleksey Zlatorunskiy commentary]

[Text] Today is the date set by the Security Council's resolutions 425 and 444 for the normalization of the situation in southern Lebanon and the transfer of control over these regions to the government of the country. To carry out this [as heard] resolution, the government sent to the southern regions a battalion of government forces. The reaction of Israel and its puppet--the criminal Major Haddad, who was condemned for his attempt to partition the country--has exceeded the limits of insolence. Haddad, [words indistinct] in Tel Aviv, declared the establishment of an independent state in southern Lebanon under the name of Free Lebanon. Thus Israel has realized what it has been striving for for years: to set up a tiny state in southern Lebanon; in a more simplified way, it can be stated, a bridgehead to carry out new hostile acts against the Arab countries.

The legal [as heard] birth of the tiny new Israeli state was accompanied by unprecedented acts of military piracy. The Israeli and isolationist artillery brutally pounded the Lebanese towns and villages and also the headquarters of the UN forces in Ra's an-Naqurah. Three hundred missiles were fired on UN headquarters in 1 hour. A number were killed and injured among the UN forces and the UN headquarters buildings were destroyed. There were also many victims as a result of the shelling of the Lebanese towns. A large number of old men, women and children were killed and wounded and [word indistinct] houses and buildings were destroyed.

Kurt Waldheim, UN secretary general, has expressed his profound concern at the events in southern Lebanon. A number of political personalities in the Arab countries have condemned these actions. Yet many observers consider that in this case it is by no means enough merely to condemn. Israel has challenged the international community. It committed such a challenge in the past using Washington's protection and its continuous backing. But what is involved now is not its refusal to implement this or that UN resolution, but the attack on the headquarters of this organization and against the UN forces which are obstructing Israel from implementing its hostile plans against Lebanon.

How did it come about that Israel dared to commit such an action? It is unlikely that in Tel Aviv they did not realise the reaction it would produce, foremost in the Arab world. The reason for Tel Aviv's brutal action, and that of its puppet Haddad, is very clear. It was clear even before the drafting the Egyptian-Israeli deal that Tel Aviv needed this deal, primarily to give it a free hand to carry out new hostile actions against the Arab countries. However, the separate deal leads to isolation and hence to the involvement of Egypt in Israel's policy to annex this Arab region and to set up a pro-imperialist alliance under U.S. auspices.

The setting-up of a tiny new Israeli state on Lebanese territory is nothing but one of the initial aspects of Tel Aviv's expansionist policy after signing the separate agreement with Egypt.

IRANIAN MINISTER ON SOVIET MEDIA'S OBJECTIVE REPORTING

LD201001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 79 p 5 LD

[Text] Tehran, 12 April TASS--Unlike many Western news media, Soviet media treat the events in Iran in a truthful, objective and unhostile manner, Iranian minister of information and propaganda N. Minatchi told correspondents in an interview. Our people, he emphasized, can only thank the Soviet Union for its policy of supporting the revolutionary movement. There is no doubt that relations between our countries will continue to develop in the interests of both peoples on the basis of mutual respect, good-neighborliness and friendship.

IRAN'S SHARI'AT-MADARI ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD191748 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, April 19, TASS--In his interview to Soviet newsmen in Qom, Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari stressed the sincere wish of the Iranian people to maintain relations of friendship and goodneighbourliness with the Soviet people.

The Islamic character of the new state system in Iran cannot be an obstacle for the development of such relations, he said. The Soviet Union has from the very start of the Iranian revolution taken a common stand with the people's Iranian movement on the shah's despotic rule.

In the days of the revolution, Shari'at-Madari went on to say, rumours were spread here that the USSR was allegedly massing troops on the Iranian border and sending arms there. We convinced ourselves already then that the authors of such inventions only strove to sow enmity and discord between our peoples. Soviet peoples can be confident, Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari stressed, that the Iranian Republic will not be for them a source of concern and anxiety. Our principle is not to take steps that may cause trouble to our good neighbour. We speak quite sincerely of the striving for friendship between our states and peoples.

In this difficult period for us, Shari'at-Madari said in conclusion, we value the Soviet Union's moral support. The development of good relations with the USSR has always served our country's interests.

KHOMEYNI ON EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE, INTERNAL ARBITRARINESS

LD191806 Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, April 19, TASS--Ayatollah Khomeyni accused imperialist powers of continuing to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. "The Americans covet Iranian oil and other Iranian natural resources", he stressed when speaking in Qom. Khomeyni called for unity in order to resist the external plot.

The leader of Iran's National Front Karim Sanjabi, who held the post of foreign minister in the Provisional Revolutionary Government, held a conference in Tehran at which he explained the reasons of his resignation.

He dwelt in detail on difficulties in the government's work. He said that, on the one hand, there remain in the country left-overs of the former economic, political and administrative system. Former agents of the SAVAK secret police and foreign intelligence services interfere in the affairs of the government, organise armed attacks on revolutionaries and whip up religious and national strife. On the other hand, various groupings, including "Islamic revolutionary committees", ignore the government's decisions and perpetrate arbitrariness, one of the results being the arrest of the sons of Ayatollah Taleqani. All this creates big difficulties for the government's activities and artificial obstacles in the way of normalizing life in the country.

In its newspaper MARDOM the People's Party of Iran (Tudeh) calls for vigilance because of growing intrigues by counter-revolution in Iran and for the unification of all progressive forces into a united people's front. Events of recent weeks show, the paper writes, that the prime aim of imperialism and Zionism, that suffered a big defeat in Iran, is to divert the Iranian people from the fundamental aims of the revolution by strife, disunity and secondary problems. These forces hope that in these conditions the existing government will not be able to effectively solve the numerous social and economic problems inherited from the old regime and that delays in eliminating the main difficulties will play into the hand of the instigators.

PRAVDA REPORTS BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN MESSAGES TO SYRIAN LEADERS

LD191143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 79 p 1 LD

[Text] TASS--L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has sent Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of Syria, a telegram which reads as follows: "On Syria's national holiday--the 33d anniversary of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Syria's territory--I send you, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, and the entire Syrian people wholehearted congratulations on my own behalf and on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet people.

"I wish the friendly Syrian people successes on the path of strengthening national independence and social progress, in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and the anti-Arab policy of separate deals and for lasting peace in the Near East. I want to stress that the Soviet Union will continue invariably to support the Arab peoples in this just struggle.

"I am confident that the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria will be developed further in the interests of the peoples of our countries, in the interests of peace and justice in the Near East."

A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has sent Muhammad 'Alī Halabi, chairman of the Syrian Council of Ministers, a telegram in which, on behalf of the Soviet Government and on his own behalf, he conveyed to the Syrian Government and people friendly congratulations and good wishes on the country's national holiday--the day of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Syrian territory.

I am confident, the telegram says, that the equal, mutually advantageous relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries will continue to strengthen and develop for the benefit of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Syria, in the interests of the attainment of a just and lasting peace in the Near East.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA SCORES U.S. ARMS SHIPMENT TO NORTH YEMEN

LD191527 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 79 p 3 LD

[International notes by V. Vinogradov: "Fueling Tension"]

[Text] Right at the beginning of March U.S. President J. Carter announced a decision to sell a large consignment of weapons worth a total of $390 million to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR]. The President also reported that, since it was a question of the latest weapons, they would be accompanied by a corresponding export of American military advisers. Since then, according to the WALL STREET JOURNAL, North Yemen has regularly been receiving military equipment and American instructors have been training North Yemeni servicemen.

It is well known that there exists in the United States a law governing arm exports which demands that any question of selling weapons worth $7 million or more be referred to Congress which must decide within 30 days whether or not to approve the deal. So what happened in the case of the sale of weapons to North Yemen? As Professor A. Schlesinger of New York University writes in the New York TIMES, in sending weapons and advisers to San'a' J. Carter has been the first American President to employ a special provision regarding the temporary waiver of the law governing arm exports. This provision permits the President not to approach Congress with regard to weapons sales if "there exists exceptional circumstances necessitating such a sale in the interests of U.S. security."

But, A. Schlesinger asks, did the conflict in the southern Arabian Peninsula really represent a serious threat to U.S. security, as detailed by the decision of the head of the American administration? A day before Carter announced the existence of "exceptional circumstances" the Arab League requested a cease-fire and holding of talks between the two Yemens. There was a cease-fire soon after this and talks were held between the two countries.

The U.S. President's adoption at such a moment of a decision to send a large consignment of weapons to the YAR primarily testifies that the United States is interested by no means in settling the conflict between North and South Yemen but in preserving the tension in the southern Arabian Peninsula in which it is much easier to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign Arab states.

Let us quote A. Schlesinger once again. "One thing is clear," he writes; "the exceptional circumstances were pure invention." And that is indeed the case. It was necessary to conjure them up only in order immediately to send American weapons and American military advisers to the YAR in the hope of frustrating the process of the normalization of relations between Aden and San'a'--a process which, in the Pentagon strategists' opinion, might culminate in the loss of the YAR as a "moderate friend" of the United States in that region. For even the American press notes in its comment on the dispatch to San'a' of F-5 fighters, M-60 tanks and long-range artillery that these are offensive weapons and that they are intended primarily for possible use against South Yemen.

The massive weapons deliveries to North Yemen and the circumstances under which the decision was taken testify cogently that the United States, under the guise of insuring its "national security," is still banking on the position-of-strength policy in the Near East and on fueling tension in the name of safeguarding its strategic interests in that region of the globe.

SOUTH AFRICA'S BOTHA LAUNCHES 'SENSATIONAL' ATTACK ON U.S.

LD191003 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

["Rejoinder" in the "World Today" international review prepared by V. Kukushkin: "Unexpected Step"]

[Text] South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha has come out with a statement on Johannesburg radio and television which has set even worldly political observers thinking. According to AFP, Mr Botha has accused the United States of creating a spy network in South Africa whose entire activity is directed against the republic. The prime minister demanded that a group of U.S. diplomats leave South Africa within 1 week. He even emphasized pathetically that he was "profoundly disturbed and upset by this unseemly act by a state which maintains diplomatic relations with South Africa."

The South African Republic has always been and remains the main bulwark of imperialism on the African Continent and the main defender of neocolonialist interests. NATO strategists allot to that country the role of the main strike force in a new aggressive bloc designed to unify reactionary regimes on both sides of the Atlantic. And suddenly here is this audacious statement by the prime minister of South Africa concerning its closest friend and patron!

It is difficult to say what specific goal Botha was pursuing with his sensational attack on the United States. But one thing is clear: No changes in South African foreign or domestic policy will follow from this. Botha's actions are aimed most of all at saving face in the eyes of the international public and at the same time to show "intractability" [nesgovorchivost] toward United States, in order to receive even greater help and support.

RHODESIA'S SMITH USES PRESSURE TO ATTRACT VOTERS

LD192116 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

["The Last Stake of the Racialists"--TASS headline]

[Text] Lusaka, April 19, TASS--"As soon as the economic sanctions are lifted, we shall be able to offer vast profitable sectors for foreign capital investments." This is how the leader of the unlawful Rhodesian regime Ian Smith formulated the purpose of the "elections" now being held in Rhodesia. As a result of these "elections" it is planned to set up in Rhodesia a "parliament" and "government" acceptable for the Western powers.

The two most odious figures of the puppet government now in the making--Muzorewa and Sithole--are echoing their boss. They unanimously plead the Western powers to recognize the "government" that will be created, and to lift officially the economic sanctions against Rhodesia, which would serve to further strengthen the rule of Ian Smith and his African puppets. As payment for this, the head of the regime promises Washington and London to serve as a reliable watchman of the West's interests in the south of Africa. The fact that the Western states have sent to Rhodesia a team of "independent observers" testifies to their interest in a "successful" outcome of the "elections" rigged up by the Salisbury authorities. The rulers of Salisbury have launched a broad propaganda campaign in order to advertise these pseudo-elections. Thus, thousands of photographs, showing Africans "waiting with impatience for the polling stations to open", are being scattered from the air over rural areas.

But the main task is entrusted to the punitive arm of the regime, which was increased to 100,000 officers and men in connection with the elections". Police squads and army units patrol the towns and other communities round-the-clock. People who do not wish to be extras in the racialist show are being arrested. About one hundred people have been arrested in Bulawayo. 15 African teachers have been jailed in Shabani. They are all accused of sympathising with the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and attempting to torpedo the "elections". According to incomplete data, about 2,000 opponents of the regime have been put behind bars during the two days of the "elections".

SIERRA LEONE PROSPERING IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL FIELDS

LD200318 Moscow TASS in English 1050 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Freetown, April 18, TASS--The cities and villages in the Republic of Sierra Leone are festively decorated on the occasion of Republic Day which the three million strong people of the country observe on April 19. After gaining political independence in 1961, Sierra Leone is strengthening its economic independence by boosting agriculture in the first place and by establishing agricultural cooperatives. Over a thousand cooperative societies have been set up in the country during the past years. The government is giving the new collective farms every assistance and support. They receive credits on easy terms, seed, fertilizers and agricultural machinery. More and more peasants in Sierra Leone see the advantages of collective work. At present cooperatives have a total membership of over 50,000.

The government is consistently pursuing a policy of strengthening the state sector of the economy. In 1978, it nationalised several foreign firms which operated in the key branches of the economy. Considerable progress has been made in the social and cultural fields. At present, over 260,000 children attend primary or secondary schools. The country has a university and several colleges. A system of medical services for the population is being developed.

In the international arena, Sierra Leone is pursuing a policy of peace and cooperation and actively comes out for the elimination of the last seats of racism and colonialism in Africa and for strengthening African unity. There are growing mutually beneficial ties between Sierra Leone and the Soviet Union, specifically in the fields of fisheries, education, health services and culture.

CONGOLESE, SOVIET FRIENDSHIP GROUPS SIGN PROTOCOL

LD191632 Moscow TASS in English 0732 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Brazzaville, April 17, TASS--A protocol was signed here on cooperation this year between the Congolese Association of Friendship Between Peoples and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship Between Peoples and the Union of Soviet Soceities of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet Association of Friendship with the Peoples of Africa. The document envisages a wider exchange of delegations, the holding of exhibitions and special sound and television broadcasts on the economic, social and cultural achievements of the USSR and the Congo, the granting of scholarships by the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies to Congolese students in Soviet higher educational establishments or specialized secondary schools. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Elenga, the chairman of the Congolese Friendship Association, emphasized that the document was vivid evidence of the desire of the Congo and the Soviet Union to develop and deepen bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON 18-19 APRIL SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

New Soviet Government Formed

ID191430 Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 19 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--A new Soviet Government has been formed today at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Aleksey Kosygin is chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Nikolay Tikhonov--first vice-chairman.

There have been no personal changes in the composition of the government.

Council of Ministers Confirmed

ID191727 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 19 Apr 79 ID

[Excerpt] Our special correspondents report from the Kremlin: Half an hour ago the third joint session of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities opened. The deputies and guests of the session greeted with a stormy and prolonged standing ovation Comrade Brezhnev and other leaders of the Communist Party and Soviet state. The session began with a discussion of the next point on the agenda. The chairman gave the floor to Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, who was named yesterday by the USSR Supreme Soviet chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Comrade Kosygin, fulfilling the instruction of the country's highest organ of state power, presented the Supreme Soviet with his proposal for the list of the USSR Council of Ministers. The session confirmed the list. Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, in the name of the USSR Council of Ministers and all members of the government, expressed profound gratitude to our party, its Central Committee and to the USSR Supreme Soviet for the trust placed in him. We are all well aware, Comrade Kosygin stressed, that this trust is inseparably linked with our great responsibility in running the country in accordance with our Constitution, the decisions of the Communist Party and in light of the main tasks set forth in the speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

Kosygin Address

ID192032 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Apr 79 ID

[Speech by Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, at the third joint session of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities in the Kremlin on 19 April--recorded]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies: On behalf of the Council of Ministers and of all the government members confirmed by you, I express profound gratitude to our party, to its Central Committee, and to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for the great trust they have shown us. We all well understand that this trust is inseparable from our high responsibility for the government of the country in accordance with our Constitution and the decisions of the Communist Party, and in the light of those principles tasks which were set out in the speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. It can be said with complete confidence that the first session of the Supreme Soviet has become an outstanding event in the country's political life. The session's entire activity is imbued with the democratic spirit of our Constitution and reflect the depth of its political content and the creative force of the ideas of the party of Lenin which are embodied in it. In an atmosphere of complete unanimity and great enthusiasm the Supreme Soviet has reelected the general secretary of the Central Committee of our Communist Party, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

In this our entire... [applause] In this our entire people sees a recognition of Leonid Ilich's eminent services to the party and the country, a recognition of his enormous contribution toward the cause of building a communist society and of the struggle for lasting peace and the progress of mankind. On behalf of the reconstituted government, permit me to congratulate Leonid Ilich and the entire composition of the Supreme Soviet Presidium cordially on their election. [applause]

The entire life of the socialist society, the activity of all the links in its political and economic system, are shaped primarily by a profound political unity--a unity of the society's goals in the building of communism, in all our internal and foreign policy. This is our enormous advantage and strength. The atmosphere of political unity prevails in our country because the role of leading force in our society is worthily fulfilled by our glorious Communist Party. The party's policy expresses the vital requirements of the development of society, the interests of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the intelligentsia. The party guides the Soviet people's entire great creative activity. The unity of the party and the people and the leading role of the party permit us to set ourselves and to resolve tasks of the greatest dimension, which have never and still cannot be resolved in the conditions of an exploitative society. The basic directions and principles of the activity of the Soviet Government and its powers in the various spheres of economic construction and governing the state, and also the regulation of the organization of the government's work, are determined by the law on the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union recently adopted by the Supreme Soviet. In accordance with the main tasks of the socialist state, the activity of the Council of Ministers in the coming period will be directed toward resolving tasks in the creation of the material and technical basis of communism, improving socialist social relationships, strengthening the fraternal friendship among all nations and ethnic groups of our homeland, and raising the material and cultural living standards of the working people. The government's attention will invariably be focussed on questions of guaranteeing the country's security, strengthening peace and developing international cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Leninist foreign policy enshrined in the Constitution of the Soviet Union.

We have everything we need to secure an unswerving growth in the country's economic might and the people's welfare on the basis of a dynamic and proportionate development of social production and an increase in its efficiency. We have a scientifically grounded economic policy formulated by the party, rich natural resources, a mighty economic, scientific and technical potential and wonderfully skilled cadres who are capable of successfully resolving complex production and scientific tasks and managing modern production. In the period since 1965 alone, the basic production assets of the national economy have almost tripled, while our national wealth now exceeds R2 trillion. All this permits the Soviet people to move confidently forward to its intended goal, to complete the fulfillment of the 10th 5-Year Plan and to create a solid basis for a subsequent rapid development of our mighty economy. In this context, the Council of Ministers attaches great importance to the formulation of the next 5-year plan. This is a responsible task during which the possibilities revealed by science will have to be carefully analyzed and considered, the most effective paths and directions for the development of industry, agriculture, transporation, construction and other branches of the national economy will have to be found and embodied in the plan, and measures will have to be provided for the further enhancement of the material and cultural living standards of the Soviet people.

As Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said at his meeting with electors, the 11th 5-Year Plan should completely embody the party's economic policy and be imbued with the latest achievements of economic and scientific and technical thought and all our experience. In this the government sees one of its most important tasks.

Together with this, the Council of Ministers will take measures to improve state government, to enhance the degree of organization in work and to strengthen state discipline. The government will concentrate its attention on further improving the management of the national economy, the activity of ministries and departments and all links of the apparatus of state, insuring that they have a creative approach to their work. Greater responsibility for the work given them, more initiative and flexibility in solving questions, unswerving observation of statewide and nationwide interests and intolerance of manifestations of bureaucracy, a narrow departmental spirit, or parochialism, and strict thrift in the utilization of economic resources: The government will persistently make all these demands of each economic manager.

The Council of Ministers will do all it can to promote a further expansion of the citizens' participation in the government of state affairs, to secure an intensification of people's control and an extension of publicity in the conduct of state affairs. The growing labor and public activity of Soviet people in fulfilling the plans for the country's economic and social development is the main guarantee of our successful progress in all sectors of communist building.

The government will see as one of its primary tasks the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation with the countries of the socialist community. Together with them, we will go still further down the path of deepening allied relationships, improving the work of our collective organizations and coordinating steps in foreign policy. Our joint efforts will be directed toward resolving the tasks of economic integration and the coordination and specialization of production and the fuller utilization of the advantages of the international socialist division of labor. The Soviet Union will also attempt to develop mutually advantageous economic and scientific and technical cooperation with an extensive range of developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and with the industrially developed countries of Western Europe, North America and other regions. In this we see not only an important factor for economic development, but also a way of strengthening trust among states.

In the sphere of foreign policy and international relations, the Soviet Government sees as the main aim of its activity the preservation and strengthening of peace and the implementation of practical measures to apply the peace program formulated at the 24th and 25th party congresses. Peace is a great asset of all peoples; in the interests of the cause of peace and the deepening of the process of the relaxation of international tensions, we are ready for extensive cooperation with all countries. This is our consistent and stable line: It arises from the very nature of our system, the society of social justice and humanism. The Soviet Government will use every opportunity and all the authority and influence of our state in order to stop the arms race, embark upon real measures in the sphere of disarmament and create the conditions for all countries to utilize their own resources for creative purposes, to accelerate the economic and social progress of mankind.

While implementing a foreign policy of peace, the Soviet Government takes account of the complexity of the contemporary international situation. On the basis of its realities, the government will constantly concern itself to maintain at the requisite level the security of our country, of our allies and of our friends. We will continue to undertake the necessary measures to strengthen our armed forces so as to protect reliably the peaceful labors of Soviet people from any encroachments.

Comrades deputies! The Soviet Government has the possibility of solving the tasks confronting it and of discharging its multifaceted duties because in all its activity it relies on the extensive support of the masses of the people and on the great strength of the policy of the party. In the final analysis, all our achievements are the result of the collective creativity of the party and the people, of their firm and indestructible unity. All members of the Council of Ministers see the trust of the party and people as an inspiring incentive for them to devote their strength and experience completely to the cause of the party and the people. Permit me to assure you that the Council of Ministers will do everything possible to justify your high trust. [applause]

Supreme Soviet First Session Ends

LD191646 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--The first two-day session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, elected on March 4, had ended its work here.

The session elected the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Leonid Brezhnev was again elected president of the Presidium, and Vasiliy Kuznetsov--first vice-president.

The session was addressed by Leonid Brezhnev, who, on behalf of the new composition of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, thanked the deputies for their trust and assured them that the Presidium would exert every effort to justify it.

The session formed a new government of the USSR. Aleksey Kosygin was appointed chairman of the Council of Ministers. Addressing the deputies, Kosygin dwelt on the principal tasks facing the government.

The Supreme Soviet formed the People's Control Committee of the USSR. Aleksey Shkolnikov remains chairman of the committee.

The deputies elected a new composition of the Supreme Court of the USSR. Lev Smirnov was again elected its chairman.

The Supreme Soviet again appointed Roman Rudenko general prosecutor of the USSR.

The Soviet parliament adopted the regulations of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. It endorsed also a specific text of the statute of standing commissions of both equal houses of the Supreme Soviet. The session endorsed decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

This rounded off the work of the first session of the tenth Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

PRAVDA TEXT OF INFORMATION REPORT ON CPSU CC PLENUM

LD191105 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 79 p 1 LD

[Apparent text of "Information Report on CPSU Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] A routine CPSU Central Committee plenum was held 17 April 1979.

The plenum examined questions of the first USSR Supreme Soviet session, 10th convocation.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a speech at the plenum.

The CPSU Central Committee wholly and fully approved the points and conclusions contained in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech on the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the directions for further improving the work of all soviets of people's deputies.

Comrade M.A. Suslov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, also addressed the plenum.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum approved the Central Committee Politburo's proposals on organizational questions of the first USSR Supreme Soviet session.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum released Comrade Ya.P. Ryabov from his duties as secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in connection with his appointment as first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan.

The CPSU Central Committee promoted Comrade L.A. Borodin, first secretary of Astrakhanskiy Obkom, from candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee.

With this the Central Committee plenum ended its work.

TASS GENERAL DIRECTOR KHATUNTSEV DIES 19 APRIL

LD191352 Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--Vladimir Khatuntsev, general director of TASS, died today at the age of 62.

JEWS IN USSR PLAY FULL ROLE IN SOVIET LIFE

LD200720 Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 19 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 19, TASS--According to the 1970 census, there were 2,151,000 Jews living in the USSR, or 0.9 per cent of the total population, writes the Soviet English-language weekly MOSCOW NEWS. The equality of Jews, just like of all other nations and nationalities living in the USSR (more than 100), is guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution.

Soviet Jews play a significant role in all areas of political and economic life. There are Jews in the Soviet Government (the USSR Council of Ministers) and in the governments of the union and autonomous republics and other state bodies. Many prominent military leaders are Jews.

In the 1976-77 academic year there were 311 Jewish students for every 1,000 Jews, a far higher percentage than for any other Soviet nationality (the country's average is 187 students for every 10,000 people).

Today there are more Jews with higher education per 1,000 of the Jewish population than in any other country; the total figure is about 400,000. Among the 68,000 Jewish research workers are 4,200 [number as received] doctors of science and 23,000 candidates of science.

Jews have won 10.8 per cent of the Lenin and State prizes for science and 11.8 per cent for the arts.

One of the components of multinational Soviet culture is national Jewish culture which has made great strides forward, above all in literature and poetry.

According to the all-union book chamber, 124 books by Jewish authors in a total edition of over 17 million copies have appeared in Yiddish and Russian since 1967. Translated into the other languages which people speak here, and published in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia and the other union republics, works by Jewish writers and poets are widely available to the public. Between 1955 and 1970, 466 books by Jewish writers were published in 15 languages spoken in the USSR, in a total edition of over 46 million.

These facts and figures illustrating Soviet reality show that there is no basis whatsoever for the stories about the "plight" of and "discrimination" against Jews in the USSR. Soviet Jews have full rights and along with other nationalities of the USSR are directly involved in all aspects of state and public life, making a worthy contribution to building a society where social justice reigns supreme.

KUZNETSOV PRESENTS AWARDS TO PARTY MEMBERS

LD191524 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuznetsov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented Orders of the Soviet Union to a group of party workers in the Kremlin today.

The Order of Lenin is awarded to Matafonov, first secretary of the Chitinskaya Obkom.

Orders of the October Revolution are awarded to Anisimov, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Armenian Communist Party; and to Nikonov, first secretary of the Maryyskaya Obkom.

MUSLIM MUFTI INTERVIEWED ON ROLE OF ISLAM IN USSR

For Budapest Radio interview with a Soviet Central Asian Muslim leader on the role of Islam in the Soviet Union, see the Hungary section of the 18 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 18-19 APRIL

LD200210 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0900 GMT on 18 April carries a report that farmers in the northern and eastern areas of Rostovskaya Oblast have begun sowing spring crops. The farmers are trying to make up for the time lost due to bad weather.

At the same time the radio notes that mass sowing of grain crops has begun in Lithuania, where a record area of 1.4 million hectares has been allocated to spring crops this year.

At 1600 GMT on 18 April the radio notes than Ukrainian farmers have begun sowing their 4 millionth hectare. The report adds that the sovkhoz and kolkhoz of Khersonskaya Oblast have finished the sowing of early spring crops on 500,000 hectares, and Nikolayevskaya Oblast has nearly finished this work.

At 0700 GMT on 19 April the radio reports that sowing has begun in Volgogradskaya Oblast. The radio adds that the area sown to wheat, rye and barley is to be increased by 700,000 hectares.

At 1100 GMT on 19 April the radio carries an interview with (Pushnenko), chief agronomer of the Kirghiz Ministry of Agriculture. (Pushnenko) notes that the sowing of cotton in Kirgizia has started later than usual this year due to cold and rainy weather.

At 1330 GMT on 19 April the radio reports that mass sowing of grain crops has begun in Lithuania, where almost 840,000 hectares have been planted in spring grain crops this year.

SPRING SOWING MAKES SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN REPUBLICS

LD200846 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Summary] Spring sowing is in progress at the moment in practically all of the union republics. In the south, sowing of spring crops is in full swing and spring fieldwork will soon start in the Non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR, the Urals, Siberia and other regions. According to USSR Central Statistical Administration data, spring crops had been sown on 11.3 million hectares by 16 April. Grain and leguminous crops, excluding corn, have been sown on around 6 million hectares after the rains ended. Spring sowing started in the northern and eastern regions of Rostovskaya Oblast. Over 700,000 hectares in all have been sown to early spring crops along the Don. Farmers in the oblast have resolved to produce 8 million tons of grain and sell 4 million tons of this to the state this year, of which 1.5 million tons will be strong and valuable wheat strains.

Sowing has also started today in several rayons in Volgogradskaya Oblast. Spring is later than usual here and is unstable, as in Rostovskaya Oblast. Early spring crops are to be sown here on around 3.5 million hectares. Rice plantations in the country are being extended. This year for the first time, they will exceed 600,000 hectares. Farms in Central Asia are the first to start rice sowing. Kuban farmers are about to start sowing. This is the largest rice-growing area; no less than 900,000 tons of grain will be produced here. Sowing preparations are also underway in Primorskiy Kray, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Cold Spell in Ukraine

AU181242 [Editorial Report AU] Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian at 1800 GMT on 17 April claims that the area of spring crops at Ukrainian farms has already reached 3,884,000 hectares, the larger part of the total being sown to grain and bean crops and not including corn. Odesskaya and Zaporozhskaya Oblast farm have reportedly fulfilled the plan 33 percent, and 120,000 hectares of spring crops have been sown in Dnepropetrovskaya Oblast.

Kiev Domestic Service in Russian at 0900 GMT on 18 April adds that early grain sowing has been completed in Zaporozhskaya Oblast. Despite "complex weather conditions," the campaign has been well timed.

The same newscast in its weather report forecasts for the northwestern part of the Ukraine on 20-21 April temperatures ranging at night between 1 degree centigrade above the freezing point and 4--locally even 6--degrees centigrade below the freezing point, and rising to 3-8 degrees above the freezing point at daytime. Temperatures forecast for the remaining part of the Ukraine should range at night between 0 and 2 degrees centigrade below the freezing point, warming up to 7 to 12 degrees centigrade during the day.

Kazakhstan's Sowing Campaign

AU191204 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1513 GMT 18 Apr 79 AU

[Summary] "The mass sowing of spring crops is continuing in the south and southeast of the republic. The sowing campaign has begun in west Kazakhstan and soon will encompass the other oblasts. The machine operators are now doing their utmost to complete all preparations for the campaign as soon as possible. According to a report issued today by the Central Statistical Administration, in the first half of April nearly 6,000 more tractors were readied. The number of serviceable tractors in Kazakhstan already exceeds 227,000--92 percent of the total tractor fleet." Repair operations are progressing ahead of schedule in Kustanayskaya, Severo-Kazakhstanskaya, Tselinogradskaya, Pavlodarskaya and Kokchetavskaya Oblasts. The repair of cultivating and sowing machines in the republic is nearing completion.

CAPRICIOUS SPRING HAMPERS FIELDWORK IN SOME REGIONS

LD191610 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpt] Today in the country's fields. At the microphone is P.A. Zabaznyy, merited agronomist of the RSFSR:

Spring this year has proved very capricious. In some regions it came early, but fieldwork has frequently been interrupted by bad weather. However, in other regions spring came late. For these reasons extensive fieldwork has been compressed, which makes it necessary to carry out the work according to an intensive timetable. This is being done by farms in the Kuban, Stavropolskiy Kray, on the Don and in other regions.

Fieldwork is under way in all union republics. In the northern part of the country, after the snow has left the fields, winter crops are being top-dressed and in southern parts mass sowing is under way. In the RSFSR, over 2.5 million hectares have been sown with early summer crops; in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan slightly less. In the southern regions of the European parts of the country, sugar beets, sunflower, flax, corn, potatoes and vegetables are being sown and planted.